

Ohio 4-H Dog Judges' Guidelines for Showmanship, Obedience and Rally



2025



Ohio 4-H Dog Show Judges' Guidelines

Showmanship, Obedience, Rally

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The Ohio 4-H Dog Program Philosophy

The Ohio 4-H dog program provides positive learning experiences and opportunities for diverse youth, encouraging them to reach their potential through year-round active involvement in dog projects and activities. Dog projects provide the catalyst for youth to experience and practice life skills until they are mastered and used in everyday activities, helping them develop as competent, capable, caring, and contributing citizens.

4-H volunteer advisors are caring adults who teach youth how to socialize and train their dogs to be well behaved in their homes, communities, and around other dogs. They give their support and expertise on a year-round basis, as the commitment of youth to their dogs is yearlong. Advisors teach youth skills needed to safely handle and train their dogs, as well as teach responsible dog ownership. Providing an emotionally and physically safe environment for members allows them to focus on learning the cognitive and physical skills needed to be successful with their dog projects.

4-H members are engaged in, practice, and demonstrate proficiencies with their dogs at various levels of showmanship, obedience, dog care, rally, and agility. They are engaged in hands-on learning opportunities through dog skillathons, knowledge bowl games, and county and state fair evaluations. 4-H members express creativity through educational dog poster displays and contests, designing obedience and style patterns for dog drill team competitions, and displaying creativity and performance skills in canine freestyle.

The bond that develops between youth and dogs provides a stimulus for them to help others in their community. 4-H members and their dogs, as 4-H PetPALS, visit senior adults in skilled nursing or assisted living facilities. They visit youth and adults with physical or cognitive disabilities. 4-H'ers and their dogs participate in walk-a-thons and other community service projects. Youth participate with their dogs in 4-H project awareness opportunities in schools and throughout the community. Youth also help others by taking assistance dog projects, raising or fostering a puppy for one of these worthwhile organizations.

Youth learn critical thinking skills through training opportunities in dog care, agility, obedience, showmanship, assistance dogs, rally, drill teams, and canine freestyle. They are prepared for the unexpected when working with dogs. 4-H members learn how to be flexible, as well as how to think clearly and rationally, when confronted with situations during handling, socializing, and training their dogs.

4-H members practice setting short and long-term goals for their projects and 4-H careers. Youth have opportunities to explore careers related to dogs and the dog industry. Dog projects may serve as the stepping-stone to future involvement with dogs and dog-related organizations, such as kennel and breed clubs, dog rescues or humane societies.

To access Ohio 4-H dog information use the following website address:

www.go.osu.edu/dog

Like the Ohio 4-H Dog Program on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Ohio4HDogProgram>

General Judging Guidelines

Keeping in mind the philosophy of the Ohio 4-H dog program, rules and guidelines are developed to bring consistency to county and statewide competitive 4-H dog events. The Ohio 4-H/Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Rules and Regulations for Obedience and Rally are designed by adapting the applicable American Kennel Club (AKC) rules (with permission) to exemplify the Ohio 4-H philosophy, and to promote and encourage participation by 4-H youth. The Ohio 4-H Dog Advisory Committee has developed these *Ohio 4-H Dog Show Judges' Guidelines* to aid judges in the evaluation and scoring of youth entered in county and state shows and fun matches, as well as an awareness tool for 4-H volunteers and youth. These guidelines should help bring clarity and consistency to the individuals judging these events.

As a judge, you have been given the approval and opportunity to make a valued contribution to the Ohio 4-H dog program. The manner by which you exercise your authority at 4-H dog shows and events has a direct impact on the 4-H program. 4-H members, 4-H volunteers, parents, and the general public view what 4-H dog training exemplifies by the way judges evaluate youth and dog teams at 4-H shows. It is essential for judges to show respect for the Ohio 4-H dog program philosophy and to maintain high standards when judging and teaching 4-H youth.

Responsibilities as a Judge

Because of the position of authority you hold as a judge, you must understand your responsibilities as a 4-H dog show judge.

1. First and foremost, always remember that you are working with young people. Belonging to 4-H (or FFA) and participating in the Junior Fair are learning experiences, and every attempt must be made for the experiences to be positive.
2. Take 4-H dog show judging seriously. 4-H dog shows may be the only venue a youth has to showcase their 4-H dog project. Judge a 4-H dog show with as much respect as you would an AKC or other sanctioned show.
3. It is essential exhibitors have full faith in the impartiality and competence of judges. There is no room for even the suggestion that anything other than the work of the dogs in the ring is involved in your decisions.
4. Be consistent in your judging. Do not make concessions to one competitor unless those concessions will be extended to all. You can be understanding toward some unexpected failure provided decisions and scoring are not affected. *Note:* Youth who require accommodations for disabilities to participate with their dogs in 4-H events will be discussed later in this document.
5. Give every handler and dog equal time and opportunity to compete.
6. Be friendly and courteous to all youth who enter the ring, while remaining unprejudiced and firm in your decisions.
7. Expect each 4-H'er to enter the ring prepared to perform all exercises as explained in the rules, and judge the exhibitor accordingly.
8. Do your part to ensure exhibitor and dog safety. Be prepared and proactive to prevent or diffuse an unsafe situation.

9. Demonstrate sound knowledge of the dogs you evaluate and score. Continually learn about the requirements for 4-H obedience, showmanship, rally, and other dog show disciplines/classes.
10. Demonstrate sound judging procedure and ring control, plus a thorough knowledge of the *Ohio 4-H Dog Show Judges' Guidelines*. Good procedure is essential. With it, a judge will inspire the confidence of exhibitors and spectators.
11. Be professional in the ring by: (1) being confident; (2) knowing the rules, regulations, and guidelines; (3) scoring realistically and fairly according to the rules/regulations; and (4) scoring every handler and dog against the theoretically "perfect performance" rather than other exhibitors.
12. Speak loudly and clearly for the exhibitors to hear. Never talk in a degrading tone of voice or act in a demeaning manner. The exhibitors are nervous. They probably will not remember everything you say, but they will remember your tone of voice and attitude.
13. You are working with youth and setting an example as you judge. Appropriate behavior is required at all times. Refrain from using foul language, physical contact, or using tobacco products. Never arrive at a show under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
14. Maintain a proper and professional appearance. You are in the ring to do a job, not to be the center of attention because of outlandish dress or bizarre behavior. However, wear comfortable shoes as you could be on your feet several hours throughout a day.
15. A majority of the spectators will be parents, relatives, and friends who do not know the rules, but are there to see the 4-H member showcase their project. Therefore, it is important for you to avoid any actions that might degrade the 4-H'er or the dog. Remember that the spectators, especially the general public, may form their entire opinion of the 4-H dog program, and even 4-H in general, based on the actions of the judge, the 4-H member and the dog.
16. Write comments on the score sheets. Make them positive and legible. Use constructive criticism when making suggestions for improvement.
17. Follow the rules and guidelines described in the *2025 Ohio 4-H and Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Showmanship Rules, 2025 Ohio 4-H and Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Obedience Rules and Regulations, and the 2025 Ohio 4-H and Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Rules for Rally*, as well as the rules for other show disciplines you will be judging.
 - a. ALL JUDGES MUST USE the current Ohio 4-H Dog Show score sheets when judging. (they can be found at www.go.osu.edu/osfdogs).
 - b. ALL JUDGES MUST USE the questions posted (by March 1) at www.go.osu.edu/osfdogs and www.go.osu.edu/resourcesdogs for Showmanship and You and Your Dog interviews.
 - c. Familiarize yourself with the Obedience, Judging, Showmanship, Performance, Working, and Showing Your Project Dog chapters of the *Ohio 4-H Dog Resource Handbook ©2024*.

Other Judges' Information

1. Junior Fair Dog Shows are not sanctioned shows. The exhibitor may be showing a family dog versus having a choice of dogs. This should not be an excuse for poor performance; however, keep in mind the majority of these youth and dogs show only at the county level.
2. Any breed or mix of breeds can be shown in 4-H. Also, dogs with disabilities can be shown provided they can willingly perform the expected exercises without the activity being a health or safety threat to the dogs or handlers.

3. Consistency in judging is very important. Meet with other judges of the day and show officials before the show begins to bring uniformity and consistency in judging the show. Some things to discuss include: your expectations; stewards' duties, score sheets, ring conditions, and deductions for certain behaviors in the ring that are not already spelled out in the 4-H rules. It is very important to follow the same ring procedure for all participants in each class.

4. Make the judging experience positive and educational for each youth. There will be teachable moments throughout the show. Use your professional judgment as to when to take advantage of these opportunities to educate youth in a positive way. Educate and engage the audience when possible by mentioning positive attributes about the classes.

5. For all show disciplines, dogs are expected to be well-groomed and in good condition for their age. A dog must be clean and its coat free of mats and loose hair. 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. For Showmanship, show clips are not required, and youth must not receive point deductions if their dogs are not in show clips. The ears must be clean, but it is not required that all the hair be removed from the ear canal. The eyes must be free from matter. The teeth should not have any tartar build up. Some staining on the teeth of older dogs is permissible. The toenails must be trimmed. Hair between the pads should be trimmed evenly with the pads to prevent matting and collection of dirt and ice, unless the AKC breed standard says that the hair is to remain between the pads. It is not required that whiskers be trimmed, but if the dog's face is shaved, the stubble should be removed. The judge should ask the age of the dog, especially if the dog's apparent condition warrants questioning. Take into consideration a dog's body condition; however, keep in mind the dog's breed, purpose, and body type when assessing the body condition score.

A judge may deduct points from the Dog's Appearance section of the score sheet if deemed necessary.

6. If, at the time of judging, a dog is being medicated for a skin ailment, ear infection, diet, etc., and the exhibitor makes you aware that (1) a medical problem exists; (2) a veterinarian has been consulted; and (3) medical advice/treatment is being followed, you should take these factors into consideration when scoring provided the health issues do not affect the dog's performance. (It is the show committee's responsibility to make sure the exhibitor has brought a health certificate from the veterinarian verifying the condition and treatment to the show's health check or registration.)

7. 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.

- Acceptable clothing for all *Obedience* and *Rally* classes includes slacks, dressy shorts, skorts, capri 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.
- Acceptable clothing for girls in *Showmanship* classes are dresses, skirts, dress shorts, skorts, dress slacks, dressy Capri or crop pants, collared blouses, or similar attire. Acceptable clothing for boys includes dress shirts, ties, and dress slacks. Sports jackets may be worn, but are not necessary, especially in hot weather. Closed-toe shoes, rubber-soled shoes, flats, and similar type shoes are acceptable 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. Youth are not to wear shirts with club names or logos, or clothing with lettering and distracting or offensive wording or designs. Exhibitors are not to wear hats, sandals, open-toed shoes, high-heeled shoes, clogs, or similar type footwear.

Note: Youth showing in agility, and testing for AKC trick dog and CGC, may wear club shirts, shorts, or jeans. Youth showing in drill team and freestyle may dress appropriately according to those respective rules.

A judge is expected to deduct points from the Exhibitor's Appearance section of the score sheet if an exhibitor is dressed inappropriately, or excuse them from the show ring. **A judge's appearance should be the same or better than what is expected of the exhibitor.**

8. Acceptable collars for dogs while in the *Obedience* and/or *Rally* ring include well-fitting plain buckle or quick release collars, martingale collars, 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 for dogs while in the *Showmanship* ring include nylon or very small chain link slip collars, or combination lead and collar, such as a martingale. Nothing may be hanging from the dog's collar.

Youth with Disabilities

4-H welcomes and encourages youth with disabilities to participate in 4-H projects and exhibitions. Parents/guardians of youth who require accommodations for disabilities to participate in 4-H events are asked to complete a Winning 4-H Plan Request Form. This form, along with additional information, can be found at <http://www.ohio4h.org/about/join-4-h>.

For dog shows, this completed form is to be submitted to the youth's county 4-H professional. The 4-H professional should make the show committee and/or judge(s) aware of this request. Requests should be submitted at least 30 days prior to the event to allow for possible accommodations to be met. A copy of this completed form should be attached to each respective dog show fun match entry form, county fair dog show entry forms (if applicable), and Ohio State Fair Dog Show entry forms. (*Note: Even though this is the procedure that is supposed to be followed, it often is not the case. Therefore, there are times that accommodations have not been arranged prior to the show, and no Winning 4-H Plan is available to review.*)

Requests for accommodations to participate in 4-H dog events are considered on a case-by-case basis. Show committees are expected to make every effort to accommodate for disabilities, taking into consideration whether or not the accommodation fundamentally alters the event or provides a significant advantage or disadvantage to anyone participating in the event. Approved accommodations waive the normal Rules and Regulations of a particular event (venue or sport), thus enabling the individual for whom the accommodations have been granted to handle their dog. Accommodations are specific to the individual involved depending on the nature of the request and the event, discipline or sport.

Judges are expected to follow the procedure for accommodations put in place by the Extension professional and/or show committee. They may modify the regular judging procedure to accommodate these requests. If a modification of normal judging procedure is required, the judge needs only to determine that the modification would not inhibit the ability of other handlers in the ring to show their dogs. Modifications are not made to give a youth an unfair advantage. Judges are expected to be fair to all exhibitors. Specifics will be noted on the Winning 4-H Plan form, along with any attached documents, to provide solutions to accommodate youth with disabilities.

Being Hired as a Judge

When you agree to judge at county fairs, the Senior Fair Board usually hires you through their show committee, or from a recommendation by the county 4-H Dog Committee or Extension personnel. You are working for them and should follow their directions and guidelines. When a fair board or committee representative asks you to judge, it is important to discuss your philosophies, as well as understand their philosophies, prior to being hired.

1. If you do not agree with their judging procedures and cannot reach an agreement, **do not** accept the judging assignment.
2. If you do accept, do not expect to change the committee's way of conducting the show. Do not accept a junior fair judging assignment if you do not agree with the Ohio 4-H dog program philosophy.
3. **Do not** accept judging assignments if you are not prepared to judge the classes you are requested to judge. **ONLY JUDGE CLASSES YOU HAVE THE EXPERTISE TO JUDGE!** Beginning judges, or judges new to a certain judging discipline – do NOT agree to judge if you are unsure of how to judge youth and dogs in that discipline and unsure of how to score the accompanying exercises.
4. Some things to ask the person contacting you include:
 - How many youth and dogs do they expect?
 - What are the experience levels of the youth?
 - What are the types of classes you will be judging?
 - Is there another show scheduled after the dog show limiting the amount of time you have to judge?
 - What is the size of the show ring or area in which you will be judging?
 - What is the condition of the show ring or area in which you will be judging (grass, sawdust, concrete, etc.)?
 - Will there be several rings in the show area with classes running concurrently?
 - What show equipment (mats, jumps, etc.) is provided and its condition?
 - Will there be people to steward? (Or let them know you will bring your own.)
5. The show officials are responsible for providing the correct class score sheets, armbands, stopwatches, jumps, and other necessary show items. Review these items with them, making sure they will provide what is needed for the classes you will be judging.
6. Make sure the hiring committee understands your total fee. Indicate whether it is a flat fee or if mileage and any other expenses must be added. Many fair boards prefer paying a flat fee. Ask them for a contract, and when you should expect it.
7. It is the fair board's responsibility to follow up closer to the judging date, sending you a final letter, copy of their rules and classes, and admission/parking passes. However, if you have not heard from them two weeks prior to the show, call to confirm that everything is in place for you to judge and ask when you should receive the final materials. (Many times you can find the date, time, rules and classes listed on the county's Extension website [www.county.osu.edu] or the county fair website.)
8. Find out a contact person and phone number at which they can be reached the day of the show to call if you are delayed and might be arriving later than planned, or are lost. Make sure the contact person has your cell phone number also.

Come Prepared

1. Your judges' briefcase should include the following items:
 - clipboard(s)
 - sharpened pencils or pens and markers
 - enough score sheets for the first class
 - one 2025 copy of all other score sheets that can be duplicated for the other classes
 - group exercise score sheets
 - stopwatch
 - tape measure or wooden ruler
 - chalk, tape, or small can of spray paint to mark Figure 8
 - calculator
 - tongs to hold retrieving items for scent classes
 - hand sanitizer and/or wipes
 - sunglasses or visor
 - sunscreen
 - water
 - copy of the *2025 Ohio 4-H Dog Show Judges Guidelines*
 - copy of the *2025 Ohio 4-H/ Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Obedience Rules and Regulations*
 - copy of the *2025 Ohio 4-H/ Ohio State Fair Dog Rules for Rally*
 - copy of the *2025 Ohio 4-H/ Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Showmanship Rules*
 - copy of the rules of other disciplines you are judging
 - copy of AKC rulebook
 - phone numbers of show officials and fairgrounds office

2. Arrive at the show site at least 30 minutes before judging is scheduled to begin.

3. Meet the ring stewards. Write their names down and use them. Review with the stewards their duties and the manner in which they are to be performed. Instruct them that they are in the ring only to assist the judge. Acknowledge the stewards' assistance sometime during the show.

4. Ask if there will be a veterinarian on the fairgrounds during the show. The only situations that would require you to request the services of a veterinarian would be when a dog in the ring requires immediate medical attention or when you need the veterinarian's recommendation concerning the health of a dog in the ring.

5. Check ring conditions prior to judging. Consider carefully the placement of the Figure 8 and Stays. Mark the ring for the Figure 8, measuring the full 8 feet between posts. Posts will be cones no less than 12" in height. Keep in mind that you should consider a second pattern plan in case the first is fouled badly enough to compromise the performance of those yet to show.

At the County Level:

Some county show committees are not as experienced as others. If you are in a judging situation where the show committee, and/or exhibitors need and want help in show structure and understanding the exercises, take the time to help. You may need to conduct a "mini-clinic" during the dog show. The exhibitors and you will reap the rewards.

If possible, stay for the awards presentations if they are given at the end of judging. Many youth like to have their pictures taken with their judge. Ask if any youth entered the State Fair Dog Show (if the county show is prior to the State Fair Show). You may want to give pointers to youth who plan to show at the State Fair.

At the Ohio State Fair:

You will not have time to teach. Youth who show at the Ohio State Fair should know how to perform the required exercises with their dogs. Put constructive comments on the score sheets to help the 4-H members learn where improvement is needed.

Judges are asked to stay to hand out awards and have their pictures taken with the winners or others desiring pictures with their judge.

Scoring and Determining Penalty Points

The *2025 Ohio 4-H/OSF Obedience Regulations*, *2025 Ohio 4-H/OSF Rally Regulations* and *2025 Ohio 4-H/OSF Showmanship Rules* provide the foundation for judges to follow and define criteria for judges to use when judging 4-H dog shows in Ohio. Judges must use the 2025 Ohio 4-H dog show score sheets for all classes judged and may not alter the score sheets. 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 all like classes (i.e. all Beginner Novice B classes; all Showmanship Junior A 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 the *Ohio 4-H Obedience, Rally and/or Showmanship Rules and 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, rally, or showmanship class or classes at a given show. Judges must evaluate each handler and dog in accordance with these 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 the dog that results in a less than theoretically perfect performance should be penalized.

General Scoring Guidelines

(While Obedience, Rally, and Showmanship are specifically discussed in this document, general scoring guidelines are to be followed for all show disciplines.)

1. The judge or show officials *will immediately* excuse from the ring any dog exhibiting unsafe or threatening behavior.
 - The judge will *immediately* excuse any dog that appears dangerous to other dogs or exhibitors.
 - Any dog that snaps, bites, or attempts to bite any person or dog while in the show ring will *immediately* be excused.
 - 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.
2. 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.
3. Any dog not under its handler's control may be excused from competition.

4. The judge or show officials must dismiss from the ring any exhibitor abusing the dog, which *will* result in disqualification of exhibitor and removal from the Fairgrounds.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Any handler who willfully interferes with another competitor or that competitor's dog will be excused from competition.
8. Exhibitors, parents, volunteers, and other individuals verbally and/or physically abusive or threatening to judges and show personnel will be removed from the Fairgrounds, and exhibitors will be disqualified.
9. A judge must excuse or disqualify a dog whose handler disciplines it in the ring from further competition in that class.
10. A judge will not permit any handler to use excessive verbal commands or to move toward the dog to correct it.
11. Only the exhibitor's dog, exhibitor, and show officials are permitted in the show ring area at any time throughout the show.
12. **Judges' decisions are final.** Any concerns from exhibitors/parents/advisors regarding the judging are to be addressed to Show Officials, not the judges. Questions may be asked of the judge during Agility and Rally briefings and walkthroughs.

Discussion and/or confrontation with judges may result in disqualification of exhibitor and removal of individuals from the Fairgrounds.

13. Judges are *not permitted to give a score of zero* for youth who fail to perform an exercise in Obedience and Rally, or area of evaluation in Showmanship, or fail to answer the Showmanship interview questions, provided they have attempted to execute the exercise or answer the questions. For Showmanship, partial credit must be given if the exhibitor answers part(s) of a question correctly. Our goal is to provide a positive learning experience, rewarding youth for training their dogs to the best of their abilities, for trying to perform the exercises and areas of evaluation, and for the knowledge gained while taking the 4-H dog project.

14. *However, if a youth **does not attempt to execute an exercise in Obedience or Rally, or answer interview questions in Showmanship** he or she **must** be given a zero (0) for that exercise or evaluation area. Zeros (0) must be given for not attempting an exercise, except as provided otherwise specifically in that show discipline's rules, i.e. Rally. 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.*

15. Judges must give each youth/dog team a minimum score of 5 points per exercise or area of evaluation, provided the youth makes an attempt to perform that exercise or evaluation area.

16. A dog leaving the ring *between* exercises must receive a 10-point deduction. A dog leaving the ring *during* an exercise must receive a maximum point deduction.

17. A 25-point deduction must be made for any dog fouling the ring. The exhibitor and his or her 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. *Judges are not to make that decision without conferring with the show committee.*

18. 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.

19. Take the last three sections of the obedience score sheets seriously. These are: (1) Exhibitor's Appearance –10 points; (2) Dog's Appearance –10 points; and (3) Sportsmanship –10 points. Sometimes in obedience and rally classes judges tend to automatically award the exhibitor and dog these points in each area. Award the number of points accordingly. Note: Dog's Appearance includes the dog plus equipment. 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.

20. Do not try to trick the exhibitor. For example, questions asked during the Showmanship interview **must** come from the bank of questions posted at www.go.osu.edu/osfdogs and www.go.osu.edu/resourcesdogs for each age division. The purpose is to see what the exhibitor knows, not to try to cause him or her to answer incorrectly. Follow the exercises as listed on the score sheets and the information in the *2025 Ohio 4-H Showmanship, Obedience, and Rally Regulations*, as well as in the other show disciplines you agree to judge.

Showmanship Scoring Guidelines

1. The 4-H Showmanship Score Sheet is divided into four areas in which youth and/or their dogs are evaluated. These include the (1) Interview, (2) Handler Appearance & Attitude, (3) Grooming, and (4) Handling.

2. Within each Evaluation Area, the maximum points that can be deducted for each criterion are listed and judges are expected to follow these.

3. At a given show, one judge may evaluate all four areas, or there may be an Interview judge, a second judge who evaluates the Handler's Appearance and Grooming of the dog, and a third judge who does the Handling.

The 4-H Showmanship Score Sheet

Interview - 60 points

The major difference between AKC and a 4-H Showmanship class is the inclusion of an interview component. Questions should be selected to assess the exhibitor's knowledge, not to trick the youth.

Questions asked during the Interview **must** come from the bank of questions for the appropriate age divisions posted at www.go.osu.edu/osfdogs and www.go.osu.edu/resourcesdogs. All posted questions are from the 2018 edition of the *Ohio 4-H Dog Resource Handbook*. When selecting questions from the question banks, include the page number with the answers in case the answer needs to be checked. Give the exhibitors every opportunity to answer the questions within the time period allotted. Remember they

are nervous, and your goal is to communicate with and encourage youth to attempt to answer the questions to the best of their ability.

- a. Interview judges should ask each exhibitor a minimum of six (6) questions, with each question worth ten (10) points.
- b. Select easier questions for youth in the age division "A" classes from each respective bank of questions.
- c. Partial point credit should be given if the exhibitor answers part(s) of a question correctly. Be consistent in giving the same partial point credit to each exhibitor.
- d. If a youth tries to answer the questions but does not get any of the six (6) correct, a minimum of 5 points must be given for the total Interview. If the youth does not make any attempt to answer any of the questions, a score of zero (0) must be given, and the youth will receive an incomplete for that class and be ineligible to receive an award.
- e. A judge should conduct the interview instead of a steward, 4-H advisor, etc. The interviewer can be an additional judge or the same judge used for handling.
- f. The youth does not need to answer a question word-for-word. As long as the youth provides the correct answer in their own words, accept that answer.

At the Ohio State Fair, the questions and answers are provided to the Interview judges, and have been reviewed to be age appropriate. Interview judges are to first ask the questions as they are written, but then may repeat the questions, if needed, using slightly different wording, without changing the meaning of the question. Interview judges may not ask different questions or add questions. Youth may answer in their own words. Provided that answer is correct, the judge must accept it.

Handler Appearance and Attitude - 50 points

The handler should wear clothing that will not hinder or detract from the presentation of the dog. Inappropriate clothing includes T-shirts, jackets or other apparel with slogans, 4-H club, FFA chapter, or dog club names, etc., halter tops, tank tops, blue jeans and shorts, sandals, clogs, high-heeled shoes, and other similar footwear. Girls should wear skirts, dresses, dress shorts, skorts, dress slacks, dressy capris or crop pants, collared blouses, or similar attire, and boys wear dress shirts, ties, and dress slacks. Sports jackets may be worn, but are not necessary, especially in hot weather.

- Judges must deduct points for inappropriately dressed handlers.
- Judges may excuse an inappropriately dressed handler from the show ring.

The judge shall evaluate the general conduct of handlers in the ring. Handlers should appear prepared, confident, businesslike and attentive. They should be courteous to both the judge and their fellow exhibitors. Any of the judges, regardless of what area(s) they judge, have the responsibility to deduct points from the attitude portion of the handler's score, based on what they might see.

Grooming - 40 points

It is not necessary that a 4-H dog be shown in a show clip; however, the dog must be clean and its coat free from mats and loose hair. 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. Ears must be clean but it is not required that all hair be removed from the ear canal. The eyes must be free from matter, and the teeth should not have any tartar buildup. Some staining on the teeth of older dogs is permissible. The toenails must be trimmed. Hair between the pads should be trimmed evenly with the pads to prevent matting and collection of dirt and ice, unless the AKC breed standard says that the hair is to remain between the pads. It is not required that whiskers be trimmed, but if the dog's face is shaved, the stubble should be removed. 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.

It is inappropriate to ask the handler questions such as, “Who groomed your dog?” or “What equipment is used to groom your dog?” and so forth. They should be able to tell you it is because of the breed standard. You are evaluating the grooming and condition of the dog as it is presented to you.

The Grooming section is where a dog’s body condition should be evaluated. If there appears to be a dog that is overweight or underweight, the judge should determine the exhibitor’s knowledge of body condition and discuss any steps he or she might take to correct the overweight or underweight problems. The judge should take the breed and body type into consideration when discussing body condition. The judge should then score this grooming section accordingly.

At the Ohio State Fair, Handler Appearance and Grooming are evaluated at the same time as the Interview. This is where the dog’s body condition will be evaluated. This saves time for the Handling judge and moves the show along faster. Judges evaluating this section observe the condition and grooming of the dog, and the appearance of the handler, and record the scores in the appropriate areas of the score sheet. Handling judges are asked if they catch something related to Handler Appearance and Grooming that was not marked off on the score sheet by the Interview judge to make the deduction.

Handling - 80 points

The judge should examine and evaluate the handler in the following basic areas: proper breed presentation, skill in the individual dog’s presentation, and knowledge of ring procedures. The general rule in evaluating a handler’s capabilities is Economy of Motion.

A judge should fault handlers who use exaggerated motions and gestures in any phase of their presentation of the dog. In essence, the judge should hardly be aware of a capable handler’s presence while completing the dog’s examination. In many respects a Showmanship judge’s principal consideration should be to find those handlers who possess a “hand for dogs.” Those handlers having this attribute neither over- nor under-handle their dogs. They present their dogs in a quiet, efficient manner. They are able to keep their dog’s attention without dramatic or unnatural movements. They are able to gait their dogs in a collected trot, never distracting or interfering with the judge’s vision of the dog.

Breed Presentation

While it is important the handler present their dog in the proper manner for the breed being handled, it also must be remembered that in 4-H there are many mixed breeds being shown. With a mixed breed, it is necessary to determine which breed the dog in question is being shown as. If deductions are taken for improper handling of a specific breed, a notation should be made on the score sheet to educate the handler as to proper breed presentation. During all phases of handling, the exhibitor’s concentration should be on the dog and not on the judge, but not to the extent that the handler is unaware of what is taking place in the ring.

Skill in Individual’s Dog Presentation

As a judge, you are judging the handler, but time should be spent looking at the dog to gain insight as to how well it is being handled. Consider the following:

- Is the dog responsive to the handler? Do dog and handler work as a team?
- Does the dog appear posed or interested at all times?
- Is the dog under control?
- Is the dog moved correctly to the best of its ability?
- Are the dog’s main faults being minimized?
- Do both the dog and handler appear relaxed?
- Is the dog presented with an apparent minimum of effort?

Knowledge of Ring Procedure

The judge shall evaluate the ability of the handler to follow directions, use space wisely, and execute the requested gaiting patterns. Handlers should appear “ring wise,” be alert to the judging progression, and be prepared for changes in the judging routine.

Appearance and Conduct

Excessive grooming of the dog in the ring to gain the judge’s attention is inappropriate and should be faulted accordingly.

- Handlers are expected to handle their dogs without distracting the dogs of other competitors, and a handler who crowds or disturbs other dogs should be faulted.
- Handlers who exhibit impatience or heavy-handedness with their dogs should be penalized.

Handling the Class

The Showmanship class should look like a regular conformation class in the ring with a group being brought in, stacked, gaited, and examined as in the breed ring. After the dogs are examined individually, they will then be asked to do an individual pattern.

Courtesy Turns

- It is recommended that handlers with large breed dogs start every pattern with a courtesy turn except the Down and Back pattern with two dogs (p. 108, *Dog Resource Handbook* ©2018). Toy breeds and other small breeds are not required to do a courtesy turn. Small breed dogs are defined as breeds shown on a table.
- Judges are expected to take points off if a Courtesy Turn is performed incorrectly.

Patterns that judges are permitted to use include the *Down and Back*, the *Triangle*, the *L*, and the *T*. The Down and Back is not done with two dogs in any class but Senior B, for safety reasons. After completing the pattern, the handler is sent around the ring to the end of the line and the next handler is judged.

Bite versus Teeth

- The judge must ask every exhibitor to show the dog’s bite.
- If the judge wants to examine the back teeth, the exhibitor should be asked to show the teeth.

To Table or Not to Table

In the breed ring, breeds commonly shown on a table are usually handled by adults who are physically able to safely lift those breeds onto the table. In 4-H dog shows, youth may show mixed breeds that could be much larger than the breed their dogs most closely resemble.

- Youth, regardless of age, should be able to safely table toy breeds.
- Exhibitor’s size in relation to the dog’s size should be taken into consideration when asking a youth to table their dog.
- If a youth is physically unable to table their dog that is commonly shown on a table, ideally the steward should bring this to the judge’s attention **before** the class enters the ring. In any case, the exhibitor should know if that breed is normally shown on the table and should be able to explain how it is done properly, even if the child/dog size does not permit them to demonstrate those procedures.
- Judges should not penalize an exhibitor who is physically unable to safely lift their dog, if they know the correct procedure and timing.

Use of Bait

- Use of bait is permitted in all Showmanship classes. Bait that makes noise is not permitted.

- *At the Ohio State Fair:* Bait is permitted in the holding ring on the show floor, in addition to the show ring.

Interference and Double Handling

Interference and double handling are not permitted. A judge who is aware of any assistance, interference, or attempts to control a dog from outside the ring must act to stop such double handling or interference and a substantial point deduction should be taken.

If there are unnecessary disturbances outside your ring, call for the Show Chairman or Chief Steward.

Large Entries, Small Rings

Keep only as many dogs in the ring as can be conveniently accommodated for individual examination and gaiting. Divide a class that is too large for the ring.

Equipment

- Dogs are shown on a lead that is proportionate to their size. The collar may be nylon, small chain link, or a combination lead and collar such as a martingale.
- Most of the working breeds are shown on a chain collar with a leather or nylon lead.
- A chain lead is not acceptable.

Fouling the Ring

A 25-point deduction must 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. *Judges are not to make that decision without conferring with the show committee.*

Judging Routine

- Judges must be consistent with every handler in a class, using the same gaiting patterns, the same procedural requests, and allowing each handler about the same amount of time.
- A judge should not confuse the ability of the youth to take directions with the youth's ability to handle their dog. Some freedom of expression and expertise should be allowed.
- Judges should consider how their own movements in the ring might cause awkward and unusual handling results. For example, when examining the class as a whole in motion, the judge should be inside the circle; and when examining a class of standing or posed dogs, the judge should be considerate of the handlers if moving between dogs.
- Judges should limit conversation with handlers during competition to that which is absolutely necessary.

Ties in Scoring

Ties will be broken as follows:

1. When two or more exhibitors have the same overall scores, the scores in the Handling exercise will be compared. The exhibitor with the highest score in the Handling exercise will receive the highest placing, and so forth.
2. If all exhibitors have the same score in the Handling exercise, the scores in the Interview section will be compared, followed by the scores in the Handler Appearance & Attitude section, and the scores in the Grooming section until ties are broken.
3. If the scores are equal throughout all of the exercises, with Grooming being the last section compared, ties will be broken by the exhibitors and their dogs performing a Handling exercise as specified by the judge.

Obedience Scoring Guidelines

For obedience scoring the score sheets are divided into areas of Maximum Point Deductions and Minor to Substantial Point Deductions. Points are always deducted from a team's total possible points earned for each exercise, never added.

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 should not enter classes without both youth and dogs being prepared prior to the State Fair to perform the required exercises. A zero (0) **MUST** 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 must receive a 10-point deduction. A dog leaving the ring *during* an exercise must 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. **Fouling the Ring:** A 25-point deduction must 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. **Judges are not to make that decision without conferring with the show committee.**

Ties in Scoring

Ties will be broken as follows:

1. *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 of 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.

2. *Graduate Novice & above Levels of Obedience:* Ties will be broken by the exhibitors and their dogs performing an exercise specified by the judge.

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. 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 in order 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

When the rules say "command or signal," either a single command or signal may be given, not both.

- A judge must penalize a handler for giving extra commands or signals, or for giving a command and signal simultaneously.
- A judge will penalize a delay in following their orders to give a command or signal unless the judge directs the delay.
- Lack of prompt response by the dog to a command or signal is subject to a penalty.
- A judge will penalize a handler signaling a correction to a dog. 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. A handler may, however, bend the body and knees to bring their hand level with the dog's eyes while giving a signal to a dog in heel position. Any kind of whistling is prohibited.
- Commands which the judge deems as excessively loud will be substantially penalized.
- An extra command and/or signal in any non-principal part of an exercise does not constitute a maximum deduction for that exercise.

Additional Commands or Signals

- A judge must give a maximum point deduction if a handler gives an additional command or signal not permitted by these *Regulations*. 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, Preferred 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 to substantial penalties, depending on the circumstances.
- In the Graduate Novice and higher classes, a substantial point deduction will be taken for a dog that is physically guided at any time or that is 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 the Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open, or Utility 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.

Beginner Novice A & B Scoring

Heel on Leash

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." Signs, rather than verbal commands from the judge, will be used for this 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.

- The dog must receive a maximum point deduction if a handler is constantly controlling the dog by tugging on the leash or is adapting to the dogs' pace.
- Minor deductions will be made for additional commands or signals to heel or for failure of the dog or handler to speed up noticeably for the fast or slow down noticeably for the slow.
- Minor or substantial point deductions shall be made for lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, failure to sit at a halt, and other heeling imperfections.
- Deductions should also be made for a handler who guides the dog with the leash or does not walk at a brisk pace.

A one-time single phrase of praise or encouragement by the handler to the dog will be allowed without penalty. Examples include, "good," "yes," "nice," "super," "great," and "atta boy/girl."

While scoring this exercise, the judge must be near enough to observe any signals or commands given by the handler to the dog, without interfering with either.

Figure Eight on Leash

The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team.

The judge's orders are: "Forward," "Halt," and "Exercise Finished."

- The scoring is the same as the Heel on Leash exercise.
- Cones will be used as Figure Eight posts.

Sit for Exam - on Leash

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog sits in position before and during the examination without displaying resentment.

The judge's orders are: "Sit your dog and leave when you are ready," "Back to your dog" and "Exercise finished."

- The scoring of this exercise will not start until the handler has given the command and/or signal to stay, except for such things as rough treatment by the handler or active resistance by the dog to sit. Either of these will receive a maximum point deduction.

- A dog must receive a maximum point deduction if it stands, lies down, or moves away from the place where it was left either before or during the examination, or growls or displays resentment.
- Minor point deductions will be made for any tightening of the leash during the exercise.
- Substantial point deductions will be made for an extra command to the dog after the handler has given the command and/or signal to stay and left the heel position.
- Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves its feet at any time or moves away after the examination has been completed.
- Minor or substantial deductions will be made for shyness.

A one-time single phrase of praise or encouragement, by the handler to the dog, will be allowed without penalty. Examples include, “good,” “yes,” “nice,” “super,” “great,” and “atta boy/girl.”

Beginner Novice A

Sit/Stay on Leash (45 seconds)

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position for 45 seconds.

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position. The judge will ask, “Are you ready?” The judge’s orders are: “Sit your dog,” and “Leave your dog.” The dog will remain sitting for 45 seconds. The judge’s orders are: “Return to your dog” and Exercise finished.”

During this exercise the judge will stand so the dog and handler are clearly visible throughout the entire exercise.

- Scoring of this exercise will not begin until after the judge has ordered the handler to leave their dog, except for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or resistance by a dog to its handler’s attempts to have it sit down. These will receive substantial point deductions. In extreme cases the dog may be excused.
- Depending on the circumstance, a minor or substantial point deduction will be made if the handler touches the dog or its collar while getting it into the sit position.
- Dogs will receive a maximum point deduction if it (1) moves a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, (2) does not remain in the required position until the handler has returned to heel position, or (3) repeatedly barks or whines.
- A substantial point deduction will be given for a dog that (1) moves even a short distance from where it was left, (2) barks or whines only once or twice, or (3) changes from a sit to a down after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge says, “Exercise finished.” The judge will not give the “Exercise Finished” order until the handler has returned to the heel position.
- Points should not be deducted for the leash either touching or not touching the ground. Too tight of a leash, or too much movement, can be noted and/or points deducted.

Beginner Novice A Recall on Leash

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

Judge’s orders are “Leave your dog,” “Call your dog,” and “Exercise finished.”

- A dog must receive a maximum point deduction if it is given an additional command and/or signal to stay, if more than two commands or signals are required for the dog to come, if it fails to come,

if it moves from the place it was left before being called or signaled to come, or if it does not come close enough to its handler so the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot.

- Maximum point deductions will be made for a handler's extra command or signal to come or to sit.
- Minor or substantial point deductions will be made if the dog fails to come at a brisk trot or gallop or fails to sit.
- Minor deductions will be made for slow or poor sits.

Beginner Novice B

Sit/Stay on Leash (Handler Walks Around Ring)

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

Judge's 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, "Are you 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."

During this exercise the judge will stand so the dog and handler are clearly visible throughout the entire exercise.

- Scoring of the exercises will not start until after the judge has ordered the handler to leave their dog, except for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or resistance by a dog to its handler's attempts to make it sit. These will be penalized substantially. In extreme cases, the dog may be excused.
- The dog must receive a maximum point deduction for (1) moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, (2) not remaining in the sit position until the handler has returned to heel position, (3) repeatedly barking or whining, or (4) any additional command or signal as the handler is walking around the ring.
- A substantial point deduction will be given for a dog that (1) moves even a short distance from where it was left, (2) barks or whines only once or twice, or (3) changes from a sit to a down after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge says, "Exercise finished." The judge will not give the "Exercise Finished" order until the handler has returned to the heel position.
- Minor or substantial deductions will be made for any additional commands to the dog after the handler has commanded and/or signaled the dog to stay.

Beginner Novice B Recall off Leash

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.

- Scoring is the same as Beginner Novice A Recall on Leash.

Pre-Novice Scoring

Heel on Leash

The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the ability of the handler and dog to work as a team.

Judge's orders are: "Forward," "Halt," "Right turn," "Left turn," "About turn," "Slow," "Normal," and "Fast."

- In scoring this exercise, judges shall accompany the handler at a discreet distance so they can observe any signals or commands given by the handler to the dog. The judge must do so without interfering with either dog or handler. The judge should attempt to be in a position during the exercise so the dog and handler may be observed from the rear, front, and side.
- A dog must receive a maximum point deduction if a handler is constantly controlling the dog by tugging on the leash or is adapting to the dog's pace.
- Dogs receiving an extra command or signal during heeling should receive a minor to substantial point deduction.
- Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the circumstances, will be made for failure of the dog or handler to speed up noticeably for the fast or slow down noticeably for the slow.
- Minor or substantial point deductions shall be made for lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, failure to sit at a halt, and other heeling imperfections. Deductions should also be made for a handler who guides the dog with the leash or does not walk at a brisk pace.

Figure Eight on Leash

Judge's orders are: "Forward" and "Exercise Finished." The judge will order at least one "Halt."

- Cones will be used as Figure Eight posts.
- A dog must receive a maximum point deduction if a handler is constantly controlling the dog by tugging on the leash or is adapting to the dog's pace.
- Dogs receiving an extra command or signal during heeling should receive a minor to substantial point deduction.
- Minor or substantial point deductions shall be made for improper heel position, occasional tight leash, lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, failure to sit at a halt, and other heeling imperfections.
- Deductions should also be made for a handler who guides the dog with the leash or does not walk at a brisk pace.

Stand for Examination on Leash

The purpose of this exercise is for the dog to stand and stay in position before, during, and after the examination without displaying resentment.

Judge's orders are: "Stand your dog and leave when you are ready," "Back to your dog," and "Exercise Finished."

- Scoring of this exercise will not start until the handler has given the command and/or signal to stay, except for such things as rough treatment by the handler or active resistance by the dog to its handler's attempts to have it stand. Either of these will receive a substantial point deduction.
- A dog must receive a maximum deduction if it sits or lies down, moves away from the place where it was left either before or during the examination, or growls, snaps, or displays resentment.

- Minor or substantial deductions, even to the point of a maximum point deduction, will be made for shyness.
- The judge will make a minor or substantial point deduction for a dog that moves its feet at any time or sits or moves away after the examination has been completed.

Recall on Leash

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.

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

- A dog must receive a maximum point deduction if it is given an additional command and/or signal to stay, failure to come on the first command or signal, moving from the place it was left before being called or signaled to come, or if it does not sit close enough to its handler so that the handler can touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot.
- A handler must receive a substantial point deduction for giving an extra command or signal to sit or finish. A dog must receive a substantial point deduction if it fails to remain sitting and either stands or lies down, fails to come at a brisk trot or gallop, fails to sit in front or fails to finish, or sit at heel.
- Minor or substantial deductions will be made slow or poor sits, for finishes that are not prompt or smart, for touching the handler on coming in or while finishing, and for sitting between the handler's feet.

Group Exercises Scoring

The Pre-Novice Long Sit is 1 minute. The Pre-Novice Long Down is 1 minute.

The judge's orders are: "Sit your dogs," or "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs," and "Back to your dogs."

During these exercises the judge shall stand so that all the dogs and handlers are in their line of vision without having to turn around. The judge may ask stewards to assist in timing and watching the dogs.

- Scoring of the exercises will not begin until after the judge has ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, except for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or resistance by a dog to its handler's attempts to have it sit or lie down. These will receive substantial point deductions. In extreme cases the dog may be excused.
- Depending on the circumstance, a minor or substantial point deduction will be made if the handler touches the dog or its collar while getting it into the down position.
- Dogs will receive a maximum point deduction if it moves a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, going over to any other dog (walking, scooting, rolling, crawling, etc.), not remaining in the required position until the handler has returned to help position, and repeatedly barking or whining.
- A substantial point deduction will be given for a dog that moves even a short distance from where it was left, that barks or whines only once or twice, or that changes from a sit to a down or from a down to a sit after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge says, "Exercise finished." The judge will not give the "Exercise Finished" order until the handlers have returned to the heel position.
- A dog will receive a substantial point deduction if it is out of position enough to interfere with an adjacent dog. The handler must reposition this dog. In extreme cases the dog may be excused from the ring. For Pre-Novice, a dog that interferes with another dog on the Long Sit should not be excused from participating in the Long Down, except in extreme cases.
- Points should not be deducted for the leash either touching or not touching the ground. Too tight of a leash, or too much movement, can be noted and/or points deducted.

Preferred Novice Scoring

Heel on Leash

The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team.

Judge's orders are: "Forward," "Halt," "Right turn" "Left turn," "About turn," "Slow," "Normal" and "Fast."

In scoring this exercise, judges shall accompany the handler at a discreet distance so they can observe any signals or commands given by the handler to the dog. The judge must do so without interfering with either dog or handler. The judge should attempt to be in a position during the exercise so the dog and handler may be observed from the rear, front, and side.

- A dog must receive a maximum point deduction if a handler is constantly controlling the dog by tugging on the leash or is adapting to the dog's pace.
- Dogs receiving an extra command or signal during heeling should receive a minor to substantial point deduction.
- Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the circumstances, will be made for failure of the dog or handler to speed up noticeably for the fast or slow down noticeably for the slow.
- Minor or substantial point deductions shall be made for lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, failure to sit at a halt, and other heeling imperfections. Deductions should also be made for a handler who guides the dog with the leash or does not walk at a brisk pace.

Figure Eight on Leash

Judge's orders are: "Forward" and "Exercise Finished." The judge will order at least one "Halt."

- Cones will be used as Figure Eight posts.
- A dog must receive a maximum point deduction if a handler is constantly controlling the dog by tugging on the leash or is adapting to the dog's pace.
- Dogs receiving an extra command or signal during heeling should receive a minor to substantial point deduction.
- Minor or substantial point deductions shall be made for improper heel position, occasional tight leash, lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, failure to sit at a halt, and other heeling imperfections.
- Deductions should also be made for a handler who guides the dog with the leash or does not walk at a brisk pace.

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. This exercise is done off leash.

Judge's orders are: "Stand your dog and leave when you are ready," "Back to your dog," and "Exercise Finished."

- Scoring of this exercise will not start until the handler has given the command and/or signal to stay, except for such things as rough treatment by the handler or active resistance by the dog to its handler's attempts to have it stand. Either of these will receive a substantial point deduction.
- A dog must receive a maximum deduction if it sits or lies down, moves away from the place where it was left either before or during the examination, or growls, snaps, or displays resentment.
- Minor or substantial deductions, even to the point of a maximum point deduction, will be made for shyness.
- The judge will make a minor or substantial point deduction for a dog that moves its feet at any time or sits or moves away after the examination has been completed.

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 purpose of this exercise 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. This exercise is off lead.

Judge's orders are: "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," and "Finish."

- A dog must receive a maximum point deduction if it is given an additional command and/or signal to stay, failure to come on the first command or signal, moving from the place it was left before being called or signaled to come, or if it does not sit close enough to its handler so that the handler can touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot.
- A handler must receive a substantial point deduction for giving an extra command or signal to sit or finish. A dog must receive a substantial point deduction if it fails to remain sitting and either stands or lies down, fails to come at a brisk trot or gallop, fails to sit in front or fails to finish, or sit at heel.
- Minor or substantial deductions will be made slow or poor sits, for finishes that are not prompt or smart, for touching the handler on coming in or while finishing, and for sitting between the handler's feet.

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

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit or down position as directed by the judge.

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

- Scoring of the exercises will not start until after the judge has ordered the handler to leave their dog, except for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or resistance by a dog to its handler's attempts to make it sit. These will be penalized substantially. In extreme cases, the dog may be excused.
- The dog must receive a maximum point deduction for (1) moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, (2) not remaining in the sit/down position until the handler has returned to heel position, (3) repeatedly barking or whining, or (4) any additional command or signal as the handler is walking around the ring.
- A substantial point deduction will be given for a dog that (1) moves even a short distance from where it was left, (2) barks or whines only once or twice, or (3) changes from a sit to a down or down to sit, after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge says, "Exercise finished." The judge will not give the "Exercise Finished" order until the handler has returned to the heel position.
- Minor or substantial deductions will be made for any additional commands to the dog after the handler has commanded and/or signaled the dog to stay.

Sit Stay – Get Your Leash

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position until the handler has returned to the heel position.

Judging Procedures: The judge will instruct the steward to place the leash at the designated location after the Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise. Typically, the leash is placed on a chair or table at the ring entrance. The handler and dog will begin the exercise at least 30 feet from the leash. The judge must be in position to watch the dog and handler throughout the exercise including exiting the ring.

When positioning the dog and the handler for this exercise the judge should ensure that such positioning will permit the dog to keep the handler in its direct line of vision as the handler leaves and returns to the dog. The judge must be in position to watch the dog and see the handler leave and return. Once the exercise is finished, the judge must watch the dog and handler exit the ring together.

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

- Scoring: A maximum point deduction is required for a dog that does any of the following: Fails to sit on the first command and/or signal, moves a substantial distance away from the place it was where it was left, lies down before the handler has returned to heel position, or repeatedly barks or whines.
- Substantial deductions will be made for a dog lies down after the handler has returned to heel position and before the judge has said, "Exercise finished."
- Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for the dog that moves a short distance from where it was left, or that moves its feet repeatedly while remaining in place.
- A substantial deduction must be made for a dog that does not remain under control while leaving the ring.

Novice Scoring

Heel on Leash and Figure Eight

Judge's orders are: "Forward," "Halt," "Right turn," "Left turn," "About turn," "Slow," "Normal," and "Fast."

- Cones will be used as Figure Eight posts.

While scoring this exercise, the judge needs to be near enough to observe any signals or commands given by the handler to the dog, without interfering with either.

- The dog must receive a maximum point deduction if a handler is constantly controlling the dog by tugging on the leash or is adapting to the dogs' pace.
- Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the circumstances, will be made for additional commands or signals to heel or for failure of the dog or handler to speed up noticeably for the fast or slow down noticeably for the slow.
- Substantial or minor point deductions shall be made for lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, failure to sit at a halt, and other heeling imperfections. Deductions should also be made for a handler who guides the dog with the leash, any tightening or jerking of the leash, or does not walk at a brisk pace.

Stand for Examination

Judge's orders are: "Stand your dog and leave when you are ready," "Back to your dog," and "Exercise Finished."

- Scoring of this exercise will not start until the handler has given the command and/or signal to stay, except for such things as rough treatment by the handler or active resistance by the dog to its handler's attempts to have it stand. Either of these will receive a substantial point deduction.
- A dog must receive a maximum deduction if it sits or lies down, moves away from the place where it was left either before or during the examination, or growls, snaps, or displays resentment.
- Minor or substantial deductions, even to the point of a maximum point deduction, will be made for shyness.
- The judge will make a minor or substantial point deduction for a dog that moves its feet at any time or sits or moves away after the examination has been completed.

Novice Heel Free

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

Recall

Judge's orders are: "Leave you dog," "Call your dog," and "Finish."

- A dog must receive a maximum point deduction if it is given an additional command and/or signal to stay, failure to come on the first command or signal, moving from the place it was left before being called or signaled to come, or if it does not sit close enough to its handler so that the handler can touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot.
- A handler must receive a substantial point deduction for giving an extra command or signal to sit or finish. A dog must receive a substantial point deduction if it fails to remain sitting and either stands or lies down, fails to come at a brisk trot or gallop, fails to sit in front or fails to finish, or sit at heel.
- Minor or substantial deductions will be made slow or poor sits, for finishes that are not prompt or smart, for touching the handler on coming in or while finishing, and for sitting between the handler's feet.

Sit-Stay – Get Your Leash

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

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

Judging Procedures: The judge will instruct the steward to place the leash at the designated location after the Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise. Typically, the leash is placed on a chair or table at the ring entrance. The handler and dog will begin the exercise at least 30 feet from the leash. The judge must be in position to watch the dog and handler throughout the exercise including exiting the ring.

- A maximum point deduction is required for the following: The dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, not remaining in the sit position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking and whining.
- Scoring of the exercise for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or resistance by a dog to its handler's attempts to make it sit starts with the first order, "Sit your dog." These will be penalized substantially and in extreme cases the dog may be released.
- Substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves even a short distance from where it was left, that barks or whines only once or twice, or that changes from the sit position after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge has said, "Exercise finished." A substantial deduction must be made for a dog that does not remain under control while leaving the ring.

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."

Judges must stand with their full attention on the dogs and handlers during the group exercise and remain alert to any potential problems. To have both dog and handler under constant observation in this exercise, a judge should take a position slightly to the rear of the dogs at one end of the row of dogs. The timing of each stay exercise begins on the judge's order, "Leave your dogs."

- A maximum point deduction is required if the dog moves a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, not remaining in the required position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining.
- Substantial deductions will be made for the following: A dog that must be repositioned by its handler if it is out of position enough to interfere with an adjacent dog (in extreme cases the dog may be released), that moves even a short distance from where it was left, that barks or whines only once or twice, or that changes position after the handler has returned to heel position and

before the judge has said, "Exercise finished." A substantial deduction will be made for jerking or tightening of the leash before the judge has said "Exercise finished." A substantial deduction must be made for a dog that does not remain under control while leaving the ring.

- Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the circumstances, will be made for touching the dog or its collar while getting the dog into the down position.
- Scoring of the exercise for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or resistance by a dog to its handler's attempts to make it sit or lie down starts with the first order, "Sit or down your dogs." These will be penalized substantially and in extreme cases the dog may be released.

Graduate Novice Scoring

Heel Free and Figure Eight

Scoring and judge's orders will be performed in the same manner as the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, except that the dog will be off leash.

Drop on Recall

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."

- A dog must receive a maximum point deduction if it does not drop completely to the down position on a single command and/or signal, or if it does not remain in the down position until called or signaled.
- A dog must receive minor to substantial point deductions, up to a maximum point deduction, for a delayed or slow response to the handler's command or signal to drop, and for a slow response to either of the recalls. All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall will apply.

Dumbbell Recall

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

- A dog must receive a maximum point deduction if it fails to take the dumbbell on the first command or signal or does not return the dumbbell sufficiently close that the handler can easily take the dumbbell.
- Depending on the extent, minor or substantial deductions will be made for unnecessary mouthing or playing with the dumbbell, dropping it, and reluctance or refusal to release the dumbbell to the handler. All other applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall and Open Retrieve on the Flat will apply.

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."

- A dog that fails to jump the full height of the jump, that uses the jump for an aid in going over, or that returns over the jump without the dumbbell must receive a substantial deduction.
- Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that touches the jump when going over it or for a dog that displays any hesitation in jumping. All applicable penalties under the Novice Recall, Dumbbell Recall and Retrieve on Flat will apply.

Recall over Broad Jump

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

- Maximum point deductions must be given to a dog that fails to stay until directed to jump, refuses the jump on the first command or signal, steps on or between the hurdle, or fails to clear the full distance.
- Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial point deduction shall be given for a dog that does not return directly to the handler, that displays any hesitation in jumping, or that touches the jump.
- All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall will apply. The distance of the jump will be the same as in the Open classes.

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.” Judging Procedures: Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide where the leash will be placed outside the ring on a chair or similar leash holder. When positioning the dog and handler for this exercise, the judge should ensure that such positioning will permit the dog to keep the handler in its direct line of vision as the handler leaves and returns to the ring, and that the handler, when reentering the ring, is at least 15 feet away from the dog until ordered to return. During this exercise the judge must be in position to watch the dog and see the handler leave and return to the ring. Once the exercise is finished, the judge must watch the dog and handler exit the ring together.

- A maximum point deduction is required for a dog that does any of the following: Fails to stand on the first command and/or signal, moves a substantial distance away from the place it was left, sits or lies down before the handler has returned to heel position, or repeatedly barks or whines.
- Substantial deductions will be made for a dog that sits or lies down after the handler has returned to heel position and before the judge has said, “Exercise finished.”
- Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for the dog that moves a short distance from where it was left, or that moves its feet repeatedly while remaining in place.
- A substantial deduction must be made for a dog that does not remain under control while leaving the ring.

Open Scoring

Heel Free and Figure Eight

Judge’s orders and scoring are the same as in the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, except that the dog will be off leash.

Command Discrimination (Stand, Down, Sit)

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.”

Judging Procedure: This exercise may be performed in any area of the ring that is at least 40 feet in length. The 15-foot distances must be clearly marked. The judge must be positioned so that both the dog and handler are under continuous observation during the entire exercise. An excellent position for judging this exercise is at an adequate distance to the side and slightly to the rear of the dog.

- A dog that fails to obey the handler's first command and/or signal for each position or that does not stay until the handler returns to heel position must receive a maximum point deduction.
- Substantial deductions will be made for a dog that changes position after the handler has returned to heel position and before the judge has said "Exercise finished."
- Minor or substantial point deductions will be made for the handler's hands and arms not hanging naturally at the handler's side. Depending on the extent, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that walks forward.

Drop on Recall

Judge's orders and scoring are the same as in the Graduate Novice Drop on Recall.

Retrieve on Flat

The judge's orders are: "Throw it," "Send your dog," "Take it," and "Finish."

- A dog must receive a maximum point deduction if it fails to go out on the first command or signal, goes to retrieve before the command or signal is given, fails to retrieve, or does not return with the dumbbell sufficiently close that the handler can easily take the dumbbell as described in the Dumbbell Recall exercise.
- A dog must receive minor or substantial point deductions for slowness in going out, returning, or picking up the dumbbell, not going directly to the dumbbell, unnecessary mouthing or playing with the dumbbell, and reluctance or refusal to release the dumbbell to the handler. Depending on the extent, a minor to substantial point deduction will be made for dropping the dumbbell. All other applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall will apply.

Retrieve over High Jump

The judge's orders are: "Throw it," "Send your dog," "Take it," and "Finish."

- A dog that fails to go over the full height of the jump in either direction, that uses the jump for any aid in jumping, or that returns over the jump without the dumbbell must receive a maximum point deduction.
- Depending on the circumstances, minor to substantial point deductions shall be given if a dog touches the jump when going over it or for a dog that displays any hesitation in jumping. All other penalties as listed under the Retrieve on Flat will apply.

Broad Jump

The judge's orders are: "Leave your dog," "Send your dog," and "Finish."

- A dog that fails to stay until directed to jump, refuses the jump on the first command or signal, or steps on or between the hurdles must receive a maximum deduction.
- Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that does not return directly to the handler, that displays any hesitation or reluctance in jumping, or that touches the jump. All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall shall apply.

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."

- This exercise will be performed and scored in the same manner as the Graduate Novice class Stand Stay – Get Your Leash.

Graduate Open Scoring

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 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 command and/or signal the dog to down, sit, come (in that sequence) and to finish.

- A dog must receive a maximum point deduction if it fails to obey the handler's first signal to stand, stay, down, sit, or come.
- Depending on the specific circumstances, minor or substantial point deductions shall be made for a dog that walks forward on the stand, down, or sit portion of the exercise. Depending on the severity, the deduction could be up to a maximum point deduction.
- A substantial point deduction will be made for any audible command during the heeling or finish portions of the exercise. All applicable deductions listed under the Heel on Leash and Novice Recall (after the dog has been signaled to come) shall apply.

Scent Discrimination

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.

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

- A dog that retrieves a wrong article or that does not complete the retrieve of the right article must receive a maximum point deduction. If the "After a sit" method is used, anticipating the command or signal to retrieve must receive a maximum deduction. If the "Send directly" method is used, any additional command or signal to retrieve must receive a maximum point deduction.
- Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that is given an additional command and/or signal to stay once the handler leaves the dog to take an article, that changes position while the handler is taking or scenting the article, or that moves from the place where it was left. Similar deductions will be made for a handler petting the dog while scenting the article, for any roughness in giving their sent to the dog, not returning their arm and hand to a natural position after giving the scent and before turning, excessive motions when turning toward the articles, or for not turning in place, or for talking to the dog after the judge has taken the article.
- Minor or substantial point deductions should be made for a dog that is slow, does not go directly to the articles, or does not work continuously. Similar deductions shall be made for a dog that picks up a wrong article, even if it is immediately put down again. There should be no penalty for a dog that takes a reasonably long time examining the articles provided it works continuously.
- All applicable deductions listed under the Heel Free, Novice Recall and the Retrieve on Flat will apply.

Go Out

The judge's orders are: "Send your dog" and "Back to your dog."

- A dog will receive a maximum point deduction if it: anticipates the handler's command and/or signal to go out; fails to leave the handler; does not go out between the jumps; does not stop and remain at least 10 feet past the jumps without an additional command.

- Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that does not stop on command, that does not stop in the approximate center of the ring about 20 feet past the jumps, that does not sit, that receives an additional command to sit after the dog has stopped, or that anticipates the handlers command to sit.
- Depending on the extent, minor or substantial deductions will be made for slowness in going out.
- All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Group exercises will apply.

Directed Jumping

The judge's orders are: "Leave your dog," "Bar" or "High," and "Finish."

- A dog will receive a maximum point deduction if it is given an additional command and/or signal to stay, if it moves from the place it was left or anticipates the handler's command and/or signal to jump; fails to jump; climbs the jump; returns over the wrong jump; knocks the bar off the uprights; or uses the top of any jump for aid in going over.
- Depending on the extent, minor or substantial deductions will be made for touching the jump, or for any hesitation in jumping.
- All applicable penalties of the Novice Recall exercise will apply.

Moving Stand and Examination

The judge's orders are: "Forward," "Stand your dog," and "Call your dog to heel." This exercise may be judged from the side while the dog and handler are heeling and until the dog is to be examined.

- A maximum point deduction must be given for a dog that displays fear or resentment; moves from the place where it was left; sits or lies down before it is called; repeatedly whines or barks; fails to heel, stand, stay or accept the judge's examination; or fails to return to the handler.
- Depending on the specific circumstances, minor or substantial point deductions must be made for a dog that moves its feet repeatedly while remaining in place or for a dog that returns to the handler as defined in the Novice Recall, but not to heel position.
- In Graduate Open, the handler may pause or hesitate when giving the command and/or signal for the dog to stand.
- All appropriate penalties listed under the Novice Heel Free, Stand for Examination, and Recall exercises will apply.

Directed Retrieve

The judge's orders are: "One," "Two," or "Three," "Take it," and "Finish."

In the Graduate Open class, a center glove is not used. The judge should be certain the gloves are visible to the smallest and largest dogs. The judge may point to the designated glove at the same time the order is given. The direction the handler turns is at the option of the handler, no matter which glove is designated, but the dog should maintain heel position throughout the turn and sit at heel when the turn is completed. Giving direction to the dog must be done with a single motion. When the motion stops, the direction is completed.

- A maximum point deduction is required for any commands or signals to position the dog after the handler turns to face the glove, for a handler failing to give a verbal command to retrieve, for a dog that retrieves a wrong glove or that does not complete the retrieve of the designated glove.
- Depending on the extent, a substantial point deduction up to and including a maximum point deduction, will be made for a handler who does not turn in place, does not face the designated glove, does not give the verbal command to retrieve simultaneously or immediately after giving the direction to retrieve, or for a dog that does not go directly to the designated glove.
- All applicable deductions listed under the Heel Free, Novice Recall and the Retrieve on Flat will apply.

Utility Scoring

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

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 then be followed by "Leave your dog."

- A dog that fails to obey the handler's first signal to stand, stay, down, sit or come, or that receives a verbal command from the handler to do any of these parts of the exercise, must receive a maximum deduction.
- A substantial deduction will be made for any audible command during the heeling or finish portions of the exercise.
- Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that walks forward on the stand, down or sit portions of the exercise.
- All applicable deductions listed under the Heel on Leash and Novice Recall (after the dog has been signaled to come) will apply.

Scent Discrimination

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

- Scoring is the same as in the Utility Scent Discrimination scoring.

Directed Retrieve

The judge's orders are: "One," "Two," or "Three," "Take it," and "Finish." A center glove is used.

- Scoring is the same as in the Utility Directed Retrieve scoring.

Moving Stand and Examination

The judge's orders are: "Forward," "Stand your dog," and "Call your dog to heel." This exercise may be judged from the side while the dog and handler are heeling and until the dog is to be examined.

- A maximum point deduction must be given for a dog that displays fear or resentment; moves from the place where it was left; sits or lies down before it is called; repeatedly whines or barks; fails to heel, stand, stay or accept the judge's examination; or fails to return to the handler.
- Depending on the specific circumstances, minor or substantial point deductions must be made for a dog that moves its feet repeatedly while remaining in place or for a dog that returns to the handler as defined in the Novice Recall, but not to heel position.
- Depending on the extent of hesitation, minor or substantial deductions will be made for the handler who hesitates or pauses while giving the stand command and/or signal.
- All appropriate penalties listed under the Novice Heel Free, Stand for Examination, and Recall exercises will apply.

Directed Jumping

The judge's orders are: "Send your dog," "Bar" or "High," and "Finish."

- A dog must receive a maximum point deduction if it anticipates the handler's command and/or signal to go out; fails to leave the handler; does not go out between the jumps; does not stop and remain at least 10 feet past the jumps; is given a second command to sit; anticipates the handler's command and/or signal to jump; returns over the wrong jump; climbs the jump; knows the bar off the uprights; or uses the top of any jump for aid in going over.
- Minor or substantial point deductions will be made for a dog that does not stop on command, does not stop in the approximate center of the ring about 20 feet past the jumps, does not sit, receives

an additional command to sit after the dog has stopped, or anticipates the handler's command to sit.

- Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the extent, will be made for slowness in going out, for touching the jumps, or for any hesitation in jumping.
- All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall exercises will apply.

Rally Scoring Guidelines

Refer to the *Ohio 4-H and Ohio State Fair Rules for Rally* and the AKC Rally Regulations as the basic guides to judging. Not every possible fault or error is covered in the 4-H or AKC Rally Regulations, only the more common and serious ones. The *Rally Regulations* clearly define the exercises and the standard by which they are to be judged. The *Rally Regulations* set the standard for a perfect score of 100 points by which each dog's performance is judged. The *Ohio 4-H/OSF Rules for Rally* discuss any exceptions to the AKC Rules, as well as have a maximum of 10 points awarded for Exhibitor's Appearance, a maximum of 10 points awarded for Dog's Appearance, and a maximum of 10 points awarded for Sportsmanship, in addition to the maximum of 100 points for the Rally exercises. Therefore, a perfect score in 4-H is 130 points.

Rally Regulations give the judge guidelines for how an exercise is to be performed. While Rally is not judged with the same precision as formal obedience, Rally judges must make decisions based on a mental picture of the perfect performance within the framework of the AKC Rally Regulations and the *Ohio 4-H/OSF Rules for Rally*. A judge may not discard, modify, or require anything not specified in the AKC Rally Regulations and the *Ohio 4-H/OSF Rules for Rally*.

Scoring for all levels is based on the maximum score of 100 points for the Rally exercises. Times will be recorded but not posted. The following point deductions shall apply:

Minor Deduction (1-2 points) for each of the following:

- Tight leash
- Dog interfering with handler
- Poor sits
- Slow, delay, or resistance to respond
- Touching or ticking a jump, pylon, post or cone.
- Out of position

Minor to Substantial Deduction (1-10 points) for each of the following:

Repeat of station – only one (1) retry of each station will be allowed for all class levels. Repeat of a station is an automatic 3-point deduction.

- Pylon/post knocked over on Figure Eight, Spiral and Serpentine
- Lack of control
- Lack of teamwork
- Lack of briskness
- Handler error*
- Loud command or intimidating signal
- Excessive barking
- Hitting the jump
- Patting/clapping in Excellent – per occurrence

Substantial Deduction (6-10 points) for each of the following:

- Incorrectly performed station** (Automatic 10-point deduction)
- Failure to complete the Sit Stay Exercise (IP) – No retries allowed

- Failure of dog to go over the jump in the proper direction (IP) – No retries allowed
- Luring/pleading with the dog
- Lack of natural manner

Maximum Deduction (11+ points) for each of the following:

- Minimum requirements not met
- Dog unmanageable or uncontrolled barking
- Consistently tight lead
- Dog that eliminates while in the ring for judging (25-point deduction)
- Handler error*
- Station not attempted by handler***
- Maximum deduction errors may not be retried

***Handler errors** can be assessed from Minor to Substantial Deductions (1 to 10 points) up to a Maximum Deduction (11+ points). Handler errors can be assessed at any station or during movement between stations on a course. Once a handler has stopped on any halt exercise, the handler cannot move their feet to assist a dog without incurring a handler error.

****Incorrectly Performed (IP) stations occur when a team attempts a station and fails to perform the principal parts of the station on the first attempt.** The handler may choose to retry the station once, for a correct performance, accepting the mandatory 3-point deduction for the retry of the station. The station is considered an IP if the handler chooses not to retry or fails to perform the station correctly on the second attempt. **(This means the handler and dog have two (2) attempts to correctly perform a station. After two (2) attempts, the judge is to ask the youth to move to the next station.)**

*****A station will be considered Not Attempted if:** (refer to glossary in either *AKC Rally Regulations* or the *Ohio 4-H Rally Rules and Regulations*)

- Handler completely passes the station without noticing the station
- Handler approaches sign but chooses not to do the exercise
- Handler approaches sign but does not begin the exercise described on the sign

Timing

All performances will be timed. Timing will begin when the judge gives the order “Forward” and will end when dog and handler cross the Finish sign. Times will be used only in the event of ties for a placement. Times will be recorded but not posted. The maximum course time for Rally classes will be four (4) minutes.