

DRAFT

Draft summary of submissions to DogsNSW Obedience and Tracking Committee
May 2019

GENERAL RULES INCLUDING GLOSSARY

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Page 8

Fouling:

Summary: DQ for fouling ring

A dog which fouls at any time while it is under the control of the Judge must **will** be penalised **disqualified**.

The penalty on each occasion shall be 5% of the total points for the class. The deductions must be recorded as 'penalties for misbehaviour' and deducted from the total score.

Rationale

In other dog disciplines, e.g. Rally O and Agility competitions, the rule for fouling while under the judge's control is disqualification.

Should a dog foul the ring it is a distinct disadvantage to all dogs which follow.

Examinations:

Summary: clarification of whether dogs should be examined

For all examinations the Judge must approach the dog from the right or left front and not direct front. In examining the dog, the Judge will touch those parts of the dog's body detailed in the exercise description for each class. This is a temperament test so undue pressure must not be exerted on the dog's shoulders, back or hips to test for 'stability'. Where stand-in dog/s are required for the Utility and Utility Dog Excellent 'Group Examination', the stand-in dog/s must not be examined. **Dogs entered in these classes are not stand-in dogs and are entitled to be examined.**

(No rationale provided)

Summary: Modify rules for group exercises for handler with more than one qualifying dog in class

Change of Position:

No request for a change of position in Group exercises will be allowed **except in the case of where one handler has more than one dog qualifying in the class.**

Group Exercises:

Group Exercises must consist of a minimum of three (3) dogs and a maximum of ten (10) dogs and must be judged by the same person who officiated in the individual exercises segment of the Trial. Each dog must have a separate Handler for the Group Exercises. If there are insufficient entrants the Judge will ask the Steward to furnish stand-in dogs to make up a Group. These dogs must be left on lead and the Handler must stay next to the dog in the heel position. ~~Unless an exhibitor has multiple entries~~ An exhibit must be handled by the one competitor for all exercises.

RATIONALE

In the past when the entries of competitors were higher than now, it was normal to have more than Two Group Stays, to accommodate the number of dogs competing. Now this is rare.

- I consider it unfair to give a dog to an unfamiliar handler for the Group Stays.
- It means that the dog is not on the same level playing field, as the other competitors.
- It is unreasonable to expect a dog to be comfortable with anyone else other than its own trainer and handler.
- It puts too much responsibility on the unfamiliar handler.
- It can be dangerous when the unfamiliar handler is not aware of how to handle the dog, if a situation arises.
- The dog has an added distraction on seeing his own handler returning to the other dog.
- The owner handler has a difficult decision on which dog to give away. Like Solomon's wisdom.
- In the introduction (page 6) I quote "Obedience' Trials, demonstrate the dog and handler's. ability to work together with precision and publicly showcase the training that has been undertaken to achieve this."

This certainly is not the case when a dog has to be given to someone else to finalise his round.

Summary: Modify rules for group exercises

1. Change “entrants” to “dogs entered in that class”
2. Change distance between dogs to match proposal for group exercise.

Group Exercises:

Group Exercises must consist of a minimum of three (3) dogs and a maximum of ten (10) dogs and must be judged by the same person who officiated in the individual exercises segment of the Trial. Each dog must have a separate Handler for the Group Exercises. If there are insufficient entrants **dogs entered in that class**, the Judge will ask the Steward to furnish stand-in dogs to make up a Group. These dogs must be left on lead and the Handler must stay next to the dog in the heel position. Unless an exhibitor has multiple entries an exhibit must be handled by the one competitor for all exercises.

The distance between dogs for all group exercises must be approximately ~~two and half (2.5)~~ **three (3) metres**.

RATIONALE:

Consequential to group exercises CCD, CD

DRAFT

Summary: add UD/UDX for clarification

Substantially within the Prescribed Area (UD):

A dog which does not sit with its body substantially within the prescribed area, i.e. it has two or more legs

outside the area, or fails to sit in the prescribed area, shall be given a zero score for that part of the

exercise. Where a dog has a minor part of its body, such as only one leg, outside the prescribed area, it

shall receive a minor deduction. Where a dog requires a command to sit in the prescribed area it shall

receive a substantial deduction.

Substantially within the Nominated Area: (UDX)

Where a dog is substantially but not entirely within the nominated area i.e. the dog has a minor part of its body, such as only one leg outside the nominated area, it shall receive a minor deduction.

No rationale provided

DRAFT

Calculation of the Height and Width of Jumps:

Summary: Dog to jump its height at withers (to nearest 10 mm)

Calculation of the Height and Width of Jumps:

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

RATIONALE - This will make the jump heights easier for Exhibitors, Judges and Stewards and avoid any more controversy.

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Broad Jump

Summary:

- Broad jump to be twice dog's height at withers (to nearest 10 mm)
- Two boards for dogs jumping 600mm

Broad jump: The dog shall jump twice its height. Any dog jumping 600mm will use two boards instead of 3 boards. This will allow for a space between the boards instead of the boards being jammed up against each other.

Calculation of the Height and Width of Jumps:

Summary: add extra height group for 600+

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

Height of Dog at Withers	Height to be jumped	Broad Jump	No. of Broad Jump Hurdles
Under 250mm	150mm	300mm	2
250mm and under 380mm	200mm	400mm	2
380mm and under 500mm	300mm	600mm	3
500mm and over under 600mm	400mm	800mm	3
600mm and over	500mm	1000mm	3

RATIONALE:

This brings the 500mm plus jump heights in line with jump height changes to the lower heights of dogs.

These are not tests of a dog's ability to jump its height but rather the ability to follow instructions. The jump heights should reflect the Principal Features of the exercises.

Page 15

Solid jump

Summary: change suggested board sizes to have baseboard of 150mm

Suggested size of the boards 1 x 250 mm, 2 1 x 100 mm, 1 x 150mm, 1 x 50 mm combined to make each dog's required jump height.

Change diagram to match.

RATIONALE:

There are dogs that jump 150mm therefore there must be a 150mm or 100mm base board.

With a 150mm baseboard combinations can be:

$$200\text{mm} = 150 + 50$$

$$300\text{mm} = 150 + 50 + 100$$

$$400\text{mm} = 150 + 250$$

$$500\text{mm} = 150 + 250 + 100$$

Seek Back Article:

Summary: Adding UD to title for clarification

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

New rule

Seek Back Article UD

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

Rationale

The insertion of UD in the heading will clarify that this is a description for UD Seek Back not UDX.

Seek Back Article:

Summary: Adding UD and UDX to title, so that UDX seek back articles can be the same

New rule

Seek Back Article UD and UDX

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

Rationale

This would define the UD and UDX articles used in Both Seek Back exercises, and not restricted to either UD or UDX

Note: corresponding change in UDX description of exercise.

CCD

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Page 19

1 Min. Sit Stay

2 Min. Down Stay

Summary: add paragraph about "showing air" to Description of Exercise (third paragraph)
(Same change proposed for CCD, Novice, Open and Utility)

Add:

Description of exercise

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

RATIONALE:

Currently, there is nothing in the rule book that clearly states if a dog "shows air" while settling or rolling onto a hip that it may receive a Zero score. Some Judges will mark Zero, others will allow that the dog is just settling itself. Also, the conformation of different breeds means that some dogs need to "show air" eg, Doberman, GSP, Vizsla etc while others do not eg, Golden

Retriever, Border Collie etc. This addition to the rule gives the Judge clarification and will give equity across all breeds.

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1 Min Sit Stay

2 Min Down Stay

Summary: Dogs on lead. Changes for Sit stay shown; equivalent changes to Down stay.

Principal Feature:

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

Description of Exercise:

This is a Group exercise. **The Handlers will furnish a two (2) metre lead.** The Handlers will take up their positions with their right foot next to a Stay Peg which shall be placed in a line approximately ~~two and a half (2.5)~~ **three (3)** metres apart, and with their dogs sitting **on lead** in the heel position. **Opposite each Stay Peg and approximately two (2) metres away will be a marker.** On order from the Judge 'Leave (Leave Your Dog)', the Handlers may give their dogs a command to stay and will immediately leave and walk ~~approximately five (5) metres~~ **to the opposite marker and about turn with their right foot next to this marker.** The Handlers will maintain their hold on the lead.

After one (1) minute from the time the Judge has ordered the Handlers to leave, he will give the order 'Return (Return to Your Dog)'. The Handlers must return to their dogs together. The dogs must not move from the sitting position until after the Judge orders 'Exercise Finished'.

If a dog gets up and starts to roam, the Judge may instruct a ~~Steward, or Handler, to take the dog away from the other dogs~~ **the Handler to return to the dog, keeping the dog away from other dogs.**

Orders from Judge:

'Leave (Leave Your Dog)', ~~'About turn', 'Halt',~~ **to your marker', 'About turn and halt at the marker, right foot against it'**, 'Return (Return to Your Dog)', 'Exercise Finished'. Judges may delegate a Steward to give the orders 'About Turn', 'Halt', 'Return'. (Return to your Dog)'

RATIONALE :

Learning to stay is an important and necessary part of every day behaviour for dogs living with humans. However leaving a dog to stay off lead with other unknown and dogs in the any Class is not a safe situation for the dogs, and not a practice that should be encouraged. There have been and will continue to be unwelcome incidents in these situations -some causing lifelong problems for the dogs involved.

Having dogs on a 2 metre lead and 3 metres from any other dog means that no dog can reach another if it moves from position. However the dogs will still be taught to and will learn to stay with other dogs nearby but in a safer situation.

NOVICE

Page 19

5. 1 Min. Sit Stay

6. 3 Min. Down Stay

Summary: add paragraph about "showing air" to Description of Exercise (third paragraph)
(Same change proposed for CCD, Novice, Open and Utility)

Description of exercise

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

RATIONALE:

Currently, there is nothing in the rule book that clearly states if a dog "shows air" while settling or rolling onto a hip that it may receive a Zero score. Some Judges will mark Zero, others will allow that the dog is just settling itself. Also, the conformation of different breeds means that some dogs need to "show air" eg, Doberman, GSP, Vizsla etc while others do not eg, Golden

Retriever, Border Collie etc. This addition to the rule gives the Judge clarification and will give equity across all breeds.

Summary: Dogs on lead. Changes for Sit stay shown; equivalent changes to Down stay.

Principal Feature:

The dog to stay ~~off the~~ **on** lead in a sit position until the completion of the exercise.

Description of Exercise:

This is a Group exercise. **The Handlers will furnish a two (2) metre lead.** The Handlers will take up their positions with their right foot next to a Stay Peg which shall be placed in a line approximately ~~two and a half (2.5)~~ **three (3)** metres apart, and with their dogs sitting **on lead** in the heel position. **Opposite each Stay Peg and approximately two (2) metres away will be placed another Stay Peg.** On order from the Judge 'Leave (Leave Your Dog)', the Handlers may give their dogs a command to stay and will immediately leave and walk ~~approximately five (5) metres~~ **to the opposite marker and about turn with their right foot next to this marker.** The Handlers will maintain their hold on the lead.

After one (1) minute from the time the Judge has ordered the Handlers to leave, he will give the order 'Return (Return to Your Dog)'. The Handlers must return to their dogs together. The dogs must not move from the sitting position until after the Judge orders 'Exercise Finished'.

If a dog gets up and starts to roam, the Judge may instruct a ~~Steward, or Handler, to take the dog away from the other dogs~~ **the Handler to return to the dog, keeping the dog away from other dogs.**

Orders from Judge:

'Leave (Leave Your Dog)', '~~About turn~~', '~~Halt~~', '**About turn and halt at the marker, right foot against it**', 'Return (Return to Your Dog)', 'Exercise Finished'. Judges may delegate a Steward to give the orders 'About Turn', 'Halt', 'Return'. (Return to your Dog)'

RATIONALE :

Learning to stay is an important and necessary part of every day behaviour for dogs living with humans. However leaving a dog to stay off lead with other unknown and dogs in the any Class is not a safe situation for the dogs, and not a practice that should be encouraged. There have been and will continue to be unwelcome incidents in these situations -some causing lifelong problems for the dogs involved.

Having dogs on a 2 metre lead and 3 metres from any other dog means that no dog can reach another if it moves from position. However the dogs will still be taught to and will learn to stay with other dogs nearby but in a safer situation.

OPEN

DRAFT

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Heel Free

Summary: Add substantial deduction for more than occasional lagging.

Deductions:

Zero Score: For a dog which is unmanageable.

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

Substantial: For more than occasional lagging.

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

RATIONALE:

The Principal Feature of the exercise is "The dog and Handler to work as a team ... "

A dog that lags more than occasionally is not a dog working as a team and should be substantially penalised.

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Directed retrieve

Summary: 1. Change “at least” to “approximately”
2. Gloves to be twelve metres apart (to match UD)

Description of Exercise

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

The two gloves should be placed in a straight line approximately one (1) metre from the edge or side of the ring. The distance between the gloves will be approximately ~~ten (10)~~ **twelve (12)** metres. Both gloves must be clearly and equally visible to the dog when the Handler turns to face the glove designated by the Judge.

RATIONALE:

1. "At least" means a minimum of 12 metres and can be interpreted as the length of the ring.

"Approximately" means "as close as possible to" 12 metres from the centre glove, which is surely the intention of this rule.

2 The UD gloves are 12 metres from glove 1 to glove 3. With only 10 metres between these gloves in Open, the dog and Handler have to perform different turns. Having the gloves 12 metres apart in Open brings the exercise into line with UD and UDX. The extra metre either side of the centre line makes little or no difference to the difficulty of this exercise.

7. 3 Min. SIT STAY Maximum Points: HANDLER OUT OF SIGHT

8. 5 Min. DOWN STAY- HANDLER OUT OF SIGHT

Summary: add paragraph about "showing air" to Description of Exercise (third paragraph)

(Same change proposed for CCD, Novice, Open and Utility)

Description of exercise

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

RATIONALE:

Currently, there is nothing in the rule book that clearly states if a dog "shows air" while settling or rolling onto a hip that it may receive a Zero score. Some Judges will mark Zero, others will allow that the dog is just settling itself. Also, the conformation of different breeds means that some dogs need to "show air" eg, Doberman, GSP, Vizsla etc while others do not eg, Golden

Retriever, Border Collie etc. This addition to the rule gives the Judge clarification and will give equity across all breeds.

7. 3 Min. SIT STAY Maximum Points: 25

HANDLER OUT OF SIGHT

Summary: Replace group stay with individual stay exercise. Leave dog and walk L-shaped path

Replace with

7. SIT STAY

Principal Feature:

Maximum Points:

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

Description of Exercise.

This is an individual exercise. The Handler takes up their position at the start peg. On order from the Judge "Leave (Leave your dog)" the Handler may command their dog to stay and will then follow the Judge's orders.

The Judge will order the Handler, at a normal pace, to walk to a marker. thirty five metres from the start peg. This marker will be line with the start peg. On further order from the Judge. the

Handler will then be ordered to "Turn Right" or ("Turn Left"). One metre from the side of the ring the handler will be ordered "Right About Turn" or ("Left About Turn"). When the Handler is once again at the centre of the ring the Judge will order to "Right Turn" or ("Left Turn").

The Judge will order "Return (Return to your Dog)",

The dog must not move until the Judge orders "Exercise Finished".

Orders from Judge:

"Are you Ready", "Leave (Leave your Dog)", "Right Turn or Left Turn", "Right About or Left About Turn" "Right or Left Turn" "Return (Return to your Dog)" "Exercise Finished".

Deductions

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

Minor: For minor movements, e.g fidgeting,

Rationale

The sit stay is an extremely important exercise and is used in many everyday interactions with our dogs.

It is important for our dogs to be stable and remain in a sit for short periods of time.

However, it would be rare for an owner to leave a dog in a stay while they went out of sight, unless the dog was safely secured by tether or crate.

Many dogs become very stressed in the group "Sit Stay" when their Handlers are out of sight.

This stress can be due to close proximity to unknown dogs or because of an unpleasant experience during a group exercise.

Unfortunately there appears to be an increasing number of handlers who are not training stability and endurance for their dogs in the present exercise and it is unfair that dogs become stressed due to unfortunate events. Not only do these unsteady dogs cause issues in their own ring, but sometimes disrupt other rings.

Suggestions have been made that dogs which disrupt the "stay exercises" should be banned for a period of time, but enforcing such a rule seems to be quite difficult to administer.

Many people choose not to trial because of the group exercises, in particular the out of sight group exercises and have indicated they would trial if these were changed to individual exercises.

7. 5 Min. DOWN STAY Maximum Points: 25

HANDLER OUT OF SIGHT

Summary: Replace group stay with individual stay exercise. Leave dog in down stay, get lead, sit dog, put dog on lead.

Description of Exercise:

This is an individual exercise. The Handler will take up their position with the dog in a Down. at a marker 30 metres from the start peg and facing towards the ring entry.

On order from the Judge to 'Leave (Leave Your Dog)', the Handler may give their dog a command to stay and will immediately leave and move to a chair outside the entry gate where the lead has been left. The Handler will take the lead and return to their dog.

The Judge will order "Sit your Dog". Once the dog is sitting the Judge will order "Replace your Lead", followed by 'Exercise Finished'.

Orders from Judge:

"Take up your Position" 'Leave (Leave Your Dog)'. "Sit Your Dog", "Replace your Lead" 'Exercise Finished'.

Deductions:

Zero Score: For a dog which fails to remain in the down position, or which moves more than half its body length from where it was left. Anticipates the sit or breaks from position before the Judge orders "Exercise Finished."

Minor: For minor movements, e.g. fidgeting, or for a dog that lies down in a position which is commonly known as the "Dead Dog" position.

Rationale

The down stay is an extremely important exercise which is used in many everyday interactions with our dogs.

It is important for our dogs to be stable and remain in a down for short periods of time.

However, it would be rare for an owner to leave a dog in a stay while they went out of sight, unless the dog was safely secured by tether or crate.

Many dogs become very stressed in the group "Down Stay" when their Handlers are out of sight.

This stress can be due to close proximity to unknown dogs or because of an unpleasant experience during a group exercise.

Unfortunately there appears to be an increasing number of handlers who are not training stability and endurance for their dogs in the present exercise and it is unfair that dogs become stressed

due to unfortunate events. Not only do these unsteady dogs cause issues in their own ring, but sometimes disrupt other rings.

Suggestions have been made that dogs which disrupt the "slay exercises" should be banned for a period of time, but enforcing such a rule seems to be quite difficult to administer.

Many people choose not to trial because of the group exercises, in particular the out of sight group exercises and have indicated they would trial if these were changed to individual exercises.

7. 5 Min. DOWN STAY Maximum Points: 25

HANDLER OUT OF SIGHT

Summary: Replace group stay with individual stay exercise. Leave dog in down stay, get lead, sit dog, put dog on lead.

Replace with

Description of the Exercise:

This is an individual exercise and is performed separately by each Handler/dog team immediately after Exercise 7.

A marker will be placed approximately three (3) metres from the end of the ring and equidistant from either side of the ring. The Handler will take up position with the right foot next to the marker, and with the dog off lead in the Down position.

On order from the Judge to 'Leave (Leave Your Dog)', the Handler may give the dog a command to stay and will immediately leave the dog and proceed straight to the Start Peg. The Handler will then turn left or right and proceed to the Judge's table and collect the lead. The Handler will remain at the Judge's table until ordered by the Judge to 'Return (Return to Your Dog)' and will then return to the dog via the Start Peg. When the Handler has returned to the dog, the Judge will order 'Attach the Lead '. The Handler will then attach the lead whilst the dog remains in the

Down Position. The dog will remain in the Down Position until the Judge orders ' Exercise Finished'.

Orders from Judge:

"Take up your Position" "Leave (Leave Your Dog)". "Sit Your Dog", "Replace your Lead" 'Exercise Finished'.

Deductions:

Zero Score: For a dog which fails to remain in the down position, or which moves more than half its body length from where it was left. Anticipates the sit or breaks from position before the Judge orders "Exercise Finished."

Minor: For minor movements, e.g. fidgeting, or for a dog that lies down in a position which is commonly known as the "Dead Dog" position.

RATIONALE:

'Out of Sight Stays 'are neither useful nor advisable in real life.

Leaving dogs with other dogs unknown to the Handler and the dog and unattended by their owners, is courting danger. The Handler is not present to control the dog if an incident occurs. In addition, dog may run away if it gets a fright. This has happened during trials with the Handler unaware of the dog's distress or flight.

Out of sight Stays are not a useful exercise in real life: Handlers would be very unwise to leave their dogs off lead and walk away - in the streets, parks or shopping areas etc- and certainly not with other unknown off lead dogs!

The above 'New' exercise is more useful and is much safer for the dog . It involves impulse control as the dog must remain in the down position whilst the lead is attached and until released. If the dog gets a fright and runs, the Handler is on site to control the situation.

UD
Page 36
Directed Jumping

Summary: Optional exercise – jumps have uprights only – dog to return between uprights

2. (b) SENDAWAY WITH DIRECTION Maximum Points: 40

Principal Feature:

The dog, on command, to leave the Handler and go substantially in the right direction to the prescribed area and sit and run **between the jump uprights** as directed.

Description of Exercise:

For this exercise the bar and boards of the jumps will be taken away leaving only the uprights. The uprights will be approximately 1.5 to 2 metres apart and will be placed approximately seven and a half (7.5) metres apart on each side of the Ring.

The Judge shall prescribe an area, which will be marked by a frame positioned no closer than three (3) metres from the unobstructed end of the ring and in the middle, and no more than twenty-five (25) metres from the point from which the dog is sent. The **jump uprights** shall be set

at approximately halfway, but no closer than ten (10) metres from the position from where the dog is sent or from the prescribed area.

For an indoor ring, the prescribed area shall be no closer than one (1) metre from the end of the ring and a minimum of ten (10) metres from where the dog is to be sent. The **jump uprights** shall be approximately half way, but no closer than five (5) metres from the position from where the dog is to be sent.

For each part of the exercise, the Handler shall stand the dog in the position indicated by the Judge, which shall be mid way between and in front of the **jump uprights**. On order from the Judge, the Handler shall command the dog to go to the prescribed area. The dog must go substantially in the right direction and at a brisk pace. It must not go past the prescribed area or enter from behind. Once the dog is in the prescribed area, it should sit automatically.

The dog is not required to sit squarely on to the Handler at this point. Where the Handler chooses to command the dog to sit, he may attract the dog's attention by using its name before giving the command. If this is done a penalty will be incurred.

The Judge must indicate by order or signal which **direction (left or right)**, is to be taken **by the dog** and will not advise the Handler until the dog is sitting within the prescribed area. The Handler will then command the dog to **take** the designated **direction between the jump uprights**. While the dog is **passing between the jump uprights** the Handler will turn and face it, so that the dog will come in to sit squarely in front. On order from the Judge, the Handler will command the dog to finish, whereupon the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

Praise may be given to the dog between parts of the exercise.

Orders from Judge:

'Take up your position', 'Send (Send Your Dog)', '**Right** or **Left**', 'Finish', 'Part Exercise Finished', 'Exercise Finished'.

Deductions:

Zero Score: For a Handler who directs the dog **to the incorrect jump uprights**. For a dog which requires more than one command to leave the Handler or to sit in the prescribed area, anticipates any part of the Principal Feature, does not go substantially in the right direction or fails to sit substantially within the prescribed area (see Section 8). Goes past the back edge of the prescribed area or enters from behind. Does not **take the ordered directions**, on command; **does not pass between the designated jump uprights** or does not return to the Handler, must be marked zero for that particular portion of the exercise and the Judge's Chart endorsed 'non-qualifying' score.

Substantial: For that particular part of the exercise, if a dog is slow going out or returning or responds slowly to commands; fails to sit in front or finish, or anticipates the finish or for a dog that requires a command to sit in the prescribed area.

Minor: For that particular part of the exercise, where the dog is substantially but not entirely within the prescribed area or where the dog tips **any jump upright**. For poor sits or finishes and for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

Note:

A non-qualifying score in a part of this exercise shall be deemed to be a non-qualifying score for the whole of the exercise.

RATIONALE:

The Open Class now offers non-jumping options and this new option brings UD into line with Open. It also benefits dogs that may not have the conformation suitable for jumping. Without this option many good dogs may not be able to proceed past Open Class. This is not an easy exercise. It seems to be more difficult for a dog to run between the jump uprights with no ground reference than it is for the dog to jump. Dogs are very likely to miss the space between the uprights and to tip or knock an upright. In this exercise the dog approaches the jump at an angle and immediately after jumping must turn approximately 45 degrees making a total of approximately 90 degrees. Concussion on each landing is fully taken up on one wrist, elbow and shoulder.

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Scent Discrimination

Summary: replace “at least” with “approximately”

Description of Exercise:

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

RATIONALE:

"At least" means a minimum of 5 metres. However, the judge can choose to send the dog from up to the whole length or breadth of the ring. This is not the intention of the exercise. It has occurred where the dog has been sent from about 12 metres.

Food refusal and Speak on command

Summary: Change distance from “at least” to “approximately”

Description of Exercise:

On order from the Judge, the Handler will leave the dog in the ordered position and move forward ~~at least~~ **approximately** five (5) metres, turn to face the dog and halt. On further order from the Judge, 'now' (Bark Your Dog), the Handler will command the dog to bark. On the order 'Return' the Handler will return to the dog.

RATIONALE

“At least” means a minimum of 5 metres. However, the judge can choose to send the dog from up to the whole length or breadth of the ring. This is not the intention of the exercise.

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Directed Retrieve

Summary: Change distance from “at least” to “approximately”

The Judge or Steward will then place the three (3) gloves across the end or side of the ring. The Handler with the dog sitting at heel, will stand in the ring facing in the opposite direction to and at least **approximately** twelve (12) metres from where the centre glove is placed.

RATIONALE:

"At least" means a minimum of 5 metres. However, the judge can choose to send the dog from up to the whole length or breadth of the ring. This is not the intention of the exercise. It has occurred where the dog has been sent from about 12 metres.

Directed Retrieve

Summary: same number glove to be retrieved by all dogs

Description of exercise

The exercise shall consist of a single retrieve, each glove being used approximately the same number of times. However if circumstances warrant, the Judge may alter the order or elect to use the same glove. **The same number glove will be used for every dog in the class in the trial.**

RATIONALE:

This brings the UD directed retrieve in line with the similar exercise for Open and UDX. Sometimes the conditions around a particular glove are not similar to those around the others. (eg fixtures behind a glove, shade, dips in the ground etc.)

Having all competitors retrieve the same number glove means a fairer test for all.

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Group Examination

Summary: Change distance from “at least” to “approximately”

On order from the Judge to 'Leave (Leave Your Dog)', the Handlers may give their dogs a command to stay and will immediately leave their dogs and move forward ~~at least~~ approximately five metres. On further order from the Judge to 'About Turn', the Handlers will about turn and halt on command.

RATIONALE:

"At least" means a minimum of 5 metres. However, the judge can choose to send the dog from up to the whole length or breadth of the ring. This is not the intention of the exercise. It has occurred where the dog has been sent from about 12 metres.

7. 5 Min. DOWN STAY- HANDLER OUT OF SIGHT

Summary: add paragraph about “showing air” to Description of Exercise (third paragraph)
(Same change proposed for CCD, Novice, Open and Utility)

Description of exercise

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

RATIONALE:

Currently, there is nothing in the rule book that clearly states if a dog "shows air" while settling or rolling onto a hip that it may receive a Zero score. Some Judges will mark Zero, others will allow that the dog is just settling itself. Also, the conformation of different breeds means that some dogs need to "show air" eg, Doberman, GSP, Vizsla etc while others do not eg, Golden Retriever, Border Collie etc. This addition to the rule gives the Judge clarification and will give equity across all breeds.

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7. 5 Min. DOWN STAY HANDLER OUT OF SIGHT

Summary: Handlers stay in ring. Time of 3 minutes. (Group exercise).

~~7. 5 Min.~~ 3 Min DOWN STAY HANDLER OUT OF SIGHT

Description of Exercise:

This is a Group exercise. The Handlers will take up their positions with their right foot next to the Stay Pegs which are to be placed in a line approximately two and a half (2.5) metres apart, **one (1) metre from the side of the ring**, and with their dogs in the down position. On order from the Judge to 'Leave (leave Your Dog)', the Handlers may give their dogs a command to stay and will immediately leave and, ~~accompanied by a Steward, go out of sight of the dogs to a point previously designated by the Judge.~~ **move to the other side of the ring and about turn.** After five ~~(5)~~ **three (3)** minutes from the time the Judge has ordered the Handlers to leave their dogs, the ~~Steward~~ **Judge** will order 'Return (Return to Your Dog)'. The Handlers must return to their dogs together. The dogs must not move from the down position until after the Judge orders 'Exercise Finished'.

If a dog gets up and starts to roam, the judge may instruct a Steward to take the dog away from the other dogs.

RATIONALE

For safety reasons the average person would not leave their dog out of sight unless they were tethered or crated.

Also the majority of people would not expect their dog to remain in a stay position for 5 minutes.

7. 5 Min. DOWN STAY Maximum Points: 25

HANDLER OUT OF SIGHT

Summary: Length of stay to be 7 minutes. (Group exercise).

Description of Exercise:

After **seven (7)** minutes from the time the Judge has ordered the Handlers to leave their dogs, the Steward will order 'Return (Return to Your Dog)'.

Rationale:

This is a step up from Open which has a 5 minute Down Stay and would be a graduation from 2 minutes in CCD, 3 minutes in Novice and 5 minutes in Open and 7 minutes in UD.

UDX

DRAFT

Scent Discrimination – Judge's Scent

Summary: Change distance from “at least” to “approximately”

Description of exercise

One of these will be placed in a designated place amongst the other eight cloths when the Handler and dog are positioned ~~at least~~ **approximately** five (5) metres away and facing away from the cloths as directed by the Judge with the dog at heel.

RATIONALE:

"At least" means a minimum of 5 metres. However, the judge can choose to send the dog from up to the whole length or breadth of the ring. This is not the intention of the exercise. It has occurred where the dog has been sent from about 12 metres.

Dogs have been sent from well over 5 metres.

1. SEEK BACK WITH DECOY ARTICLE

Summary: Same seek back articles as UD (corresponding change in glossary)

Description of Exercise:

'On entering the ring, the Handler will surrender two identical, differently numbered Scent Discrimination **Seek Back** articles, which will be placed on the Judges table. The Judge must designate the article to be scented by the Handler.'

RATIONALE:

This will allow the Handler to have some choice in which type of article he/she may opt to use in UDX.

It will also bring it into line with the description of the UD Exercise.

We believe there are quite a number of handlers in this tough UDX class who would welcome this small change. We hope that this would clear the contradiction of the Rules to the Seek Back With Decoy Exercise.

The description of the Seek Back Article in Section 11 Equipment, does not state the Seek Back Article has to be a Scent Discrimination Article, but does state; "The Seek Back Article must not be white or conspicuous in colour, must be the same shape as and dimensions not to exceed those of a Scent Discrimination. It may be comprised of any material." Nowhere does it state it must be a Scent Discrimination Article

Currently the description of the Seek Back Article and the Description of Exercise Seek Back Article With Decoy contradict each other.

In the UD Seek Back Exercise paragraph 1 in Description of Exercise states; The article will be surrendered on command and placed discreetly on the track by the Judge or Steward " . In the UDX Description of Exercise, paragraph states; The Articles will be placed discreetly on the track by the Judge or Steward

There is no reference to Scent Discrimination Articles.

2. POSITIONS IN MOTION: Maximum Points 40

Two options received.

Version 1 Exercise has positions in motion only, no other positions other than final halt.

Version 2: Exercise has positions in motion only (one of each), one stationary position in each change of pace

Version 1

Summary: Exercise has positions in motion only, no other positions other than final halt.

Principal Feature:

The dog and Handler are to work as a team without the use of a lead. The dog to promptly perform the Sit, Stand and Down on the first command, whilst the Handler is still in motion.

Description of Exercise:

The heeling is done in the same manner as in the Heel Free exercise excluding the 'Figure Eight' but will not include Sit, Stand and Down position other than Positions in Motion and the final halt.

Orders from the Judge:

'Forward', followed by all the orders from the Heel Free exercise (except 'Figure Eight' and positions other than the Positions in Motion) plus the following, which may be given in any sequence, 'Sit Position Coming Up', 'Stand Position Coming Up', 'Down Position Coming Up', each position must be followed by the orders 'Now', 'About Turn', 'About Turn', 'Collect Your Dog'. At the end of the heel routine the judge will call 'Halt', 'Exercise Finished'.

RATIONALE

This exercise is testing the dog's ability to execute required positions in motion. The Principle Feature of the exercise is heel work with Positions in Motion and it is unnecessary to include sit stand and down positions during the normal heeling pattern as they are not relevant to the principle feature, and have proved they can be done in all the lower classes.

Version 2

Summary: Exercise has one stationary position in each change of pace, shorter heeling pattern.
Specifies only one of each positions in motion.

Principal Feature:

The dog and Handler are to work as a team without the use of a lead. The dog to promptly perform the a Sit, Stand and Down on the first command, whilst the Handler is still in motion.

Description of Exercise:

The heeling is done in the same manner as in the Heel Free exercise excluding the 'Figure Eight' and with a shorter heel pattern. There should be only one stationary position in each change of pace.

Rationale.

The Principal Feature of the Exercise is for the dog to perform positions whilst the Handler is in motion.

However, apart from the Principal Feature of the Exercise, there should be some heeling but it should not be extensive, bearing in mind that the dog has completed heeling patterns in earlier classes.

6. MULTIPLE RETRIEVE: Maximum Points 30

Summary: Can use any articles that are same shape and size as scent discrimination articles.

Description of Exercise:

This exercise consist of two (2) retrieves only

The Handler will provide three leather Scent Discrimination **identical** articles that may be white or any colour and ~~may~~ **will** be numbered. **The articles must be the same shape as. and the same dimensions and not exceed those of a scent discrimination article.** The articles must not be covered with any material. ~~or painted.~~ The dog must retrieve an article in each of the two (2) tests.

Rationale

The Description of Exercise states that

"Preferably articles and markers should not be visible to the dog at the commencement of the exercise"

However, for some dogs, especially small dogs, the articles are not visible to them until they are almost on top of them. The rule does not provide a "level playing field" for all dogs.

Although this is a direction exercise, the use of a leather article the same size and dimensions as the wooden scent discrimination article would make the exercise fairer to all breeds.

6. MULTIPLE RETRIEVE: Maximum Points 30

Summary: Provide deduction for dog not going directly to article, as required in description of exercise

Deductions:

Zero Score: For a dog that **does not go directly to the designated article**, does not retrieve the designated article on one command, or retrieves the incorrect article; anticipates the command to retrieve, refuses to give up the article or does not deliver to hand, where the incorrect article is picked up even though it is immediately put down. For any additional command to reposition the dog to face the designated position.

Rationale

In the Description of Exercise it states "The dog will go directly to ... ". However there is not a deduction for a dog which does not go directly to the article.

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6. MULTIPLE RETRIEVE: Maximum Points 30

Summary: Tongs must be used when placing articles

Description of Exercise:

The Judge or Steward will then place three articles in a straight line with the articles approximately six (6) metres apart, tongs ~~may~~ **must** be used.

Rationale

The Dog has had to reject the steward's scent of a similar article in the seek back with decoy. If the articles are placed with hands by the steward then it can be confusing to the dog after having to reject the same scent in the seekback with decoy exercise. Using tongs, there can be no confusion.

New Class UDX Masters

Summary: Add new class for dogs which have "All titles available"

UTILITY DOG EXCELLENT MASTERS CLASS

1 Seek back with 2 decoys	30
2 Positions in Motion (4)	40
3 Scent Discrimination- Judges Scent	30
4 Directed Sendaway and Recall	30
5 Distance Control	30
6 Multiple Retrieve	30
7 Temperament Test	10
Total	200

Summary:

Seek back with 2 decoys - 2 decoy articles

Positions in Motion (4) – four positions, finishing with a sit

Scent Discrimination- Judges Scent – increase to 12 cloths in pattern

Directed Sendaway and Recall – 28 metres to nominated area

Distance Control - 9 position changes

Multiple Retrieve - two retrieves

Temperament Test 10

SCIENCE TRIA

TRIAL conducted by

EXHIBIT NO.	MAX POINTS	
1. Seek Back With Decoy (2).....	30	
2. Positions In Motion (4).....	40	
3. Scent Discrimination - Judge's Scent	30	
4. Directed Sendaway and Recall	30	
5 Distance Control	30	
6. Multiple Retrieve Part I.....	15	
Part II.....	15	
Sub Total		
7. Temperament Test.....	10	
Total Score	200	
Less deductions for misbehaviour		
Qualifying Score	170	

Marks for misbehaviour

RATIONALE:

When a dog has achieved UDX Title and/or Obedience Grand Champion Title, there are no more Obedience classes to achieve in. As in Rally Competitions, the Final Class is Rally Masters, which is RAE Class but slightly harder. This would open UDX to have a Masters Class, eligible for UDX titled dogs. With 5 or so Passes in UDX Masters Class, over 190, one could gain a UDX MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP. A Dog with 3 Passes may claim a UDX Masters Title as well as UDX. The Exercises we have put forward could be fine tuned by UDX Competitors and Judges.

Not For Competition (NFC) Class

Summary: Add a "Not for competition" class

1 Summary:

A NFC entry allows a dog to be entered in a class at an equal standard that it would normally compete, allows for verbal reward/manual guidance (training purposes) and also allows the dog to jump an equal or lesser height than it would normally jump (for example a 500 height Open dog could enter NFC Open class at 300 jump height). No food or toys will be allowed in the ring on a NFC run. A NFC entry can be nominated on the entry form at a reduced fee (at the club's discretion) or requested when entering the ring or during the competition run (no reduced fee). A NFC run will replace the dog's competition run in that class and not entitle dogs to additional runs.

1.2 Entry

1.2.1 The competitor shall nominate on the entry form under Entered In Class: NFC plus the class they wish to enter (for example "Open") and under Height At Shoulder: they shall nominate the height they wish to be entered in (for example, a 500 dog can nominate 500, 300, 200 with 200 being the lowest height). The handler/owner must state these three details (NFC, Class &

Height Category). A NFC run will replace the dog's competition run in that class eg. a UD 500 dog can choose to do a NFC run in the UD class at 300 height- the NFC run would replace the dog's competition entry.

1.2.2 Trial Secretaries will include the entry in the catalogue with a NFC number and the entry shall be added into the class nominated, at the end.

1.2.3 The dog may only be entered in a height that is equal to or lower than its competition height.

1.2.4 The dog may only be entered in its competition class level.

1.2.5 A NFC Entry is non-competitive, no cards of any kind (qualifying or non-qualifying) are to be awarded and a NFC entry will not be eligible for ribbons/trophies or prizes.

1.2.6 There will be no separate class, course or judge for a NFC entry.

1.2.7 The NFC entry that is nominated on the entry form may have a reduced fee at the club's discretion.

1.2.8 A NFC run can be nominated when entering the ring but will not be eligible for a reduced fee.

1.2.9 A NFC run can be requested when entering the ring by the competitor but can only be run at the height and class nominated on the entry form.

1.2.10 NFC will be at the discretion of the Affiliated club for any/all classes at an ANKC sanctioned competition.

1.3 Trial Procedures.

1.3.1 The judge and ring stewards shall still perform their normal duties, however faults shall not be recorded for a NFC entry.

1.3.2 The judge shall ensure that the conduct of the handler and dog is appropriate and that the course is attempted safely within the rules of Obedience and the capabilities of the dog.

1.3.3 The dog may be entered in a height that is equal or lower than its competition height (lowest height being 200). but the dog cannot be entered in a height greater than its competition height.

1.3.4 When the handler enters the ring with their NFC number displayed, or if they have chosen to change to a NFC run when entering the ring, it is the handlers responsibility to clearly indicate to the stewards and judge that it is a NFC run. The judge will confirm back to the handler. The steward/judge will enter NFC against the dogs number on the score sheet.

1.3.5 The handler MAY enter the ring for a competition run and then once competing, change their mind and swap to NFC. That decision must be clearly indicated to the judge and acknowledged by the judge before they undertake any verbal reward in the ring.

1.3.6 No food or toys to be used in the ring.

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RATIONALE:

The suggestion is to include an extra class which is a "Not For Competition class" in Obedience trials.

This would bring Obedience in line with Agility which has had this class since 2015.

Allows for new handlers and dogs to gain confidence in a class before starting to compete.

Allows for handlers and dogs to put aside a competition run (either at the start or during the competition run) and allow verbal reward/manual guidance in the ring (for training purposes).

NFC will replace the competition run and not entitle dogs to additional runs.

Allows for veteran dogs to continue to participate by jumping lower heights.

Currently, there is no way that a competitor can gain ring experience, at each level, at an actual trial. Whilst judges training and mock trials at obedience clubs can (sometimes) be available, they do not mirror actual trial conditions.

Currently competitors are entitled to continue in the ring and complete all exercises when they have failed BUT they are not permitted to train in the ring (to overcome the difficulty that the dog or handler may be encountering).

This class would allow a then non competitor to touch and talk to their dog.

The judge is not expected to train a competitor just to continue the run without the need to score.

At a time when there is a fairly visible loss of competing handlers and dogs, every effort should be made to nurture greater participation in obedience trialling.