



2008



Ohio 4-H Dog Obedience Regulations



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Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Purpose of 4-H Obedience Competition.....	2
Handler’s Appearance.....	2
Ring Size.....	3
Leashes.....	3
Collars.....	3
Dumbbells.....	3
Hair in Eyes.....	4
Bait.....	4
Heel Position.....	4
Hands.....	4
Commands and Signals.....	4
Additional Commands or Signals.....	5
Handling Between Exercises.....	5
Praise.....	5
Interference and Double Handling.....	5
Leaving the Ring.....	5
Fouling the Ring.....	6
Training, Disciplining, and Abuse in the Ring.....	6
Misbehavior.....	6
Unsportsmanlike Conduct.....	6
Earning Obedience Titles Outside of 4-H.....	6
Summary of Progression of Obedience Classes.....	7
Progressive Ring Judging.....	7
Sub-Novice A and B Class Information.....	8
Novice A and B Class Information.....	11
Graduate Novice A and B Class Information.....	13
Open A and B Class Information.....	16
Graduate Open A and B Class Information.....	17
Utility A and B Class Information.....	20
Brace and Team Class Information.....	23
Rally Class Information.....	25
4-H Obedience Scoring Guidelines.....	27
Maximum Point Deductions & Minimum to Substantial Point Deductions.....	28
Leaving the Ring.....	28
Fouling the Ring.....	28
Excusals.....	28
Ties in Scoring.....	28
Glossary of Terms.....	29
Acknowledgements.....	30

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Introduction

The Ohio 4-H Dog Program follows the American Kennel Club's (AKC) descriptions for obedience class exercises. The descriptions are taken from AKC's Obedience Regulations and used with permission from AKC. Refer to <http://www.akc.org/events/obedience/index.cfm> for additional information. Refer to <http://southcenters.osu.edu/4h/dog> for the 2008 Dog Obedience Score Sheets and other information to help youth be successful in 4-H obedience competition.

Purpose of 4-H Obedience Competition

Obedience is a way for 4-H'ers and their dogs to become a team. It also makes dogs more socially acceptable and welcome by others. All dogs should be trained to the sub-novice level just to be a good member of the family.

The 4-H classes are modeled after the American Kennel Club (AKC) competition classes. AKC offers regular classes (Novice, Open, and Utility) and non-regular classes (Pre-Novice, Graduate Novice, Graduate Open, Brace, Team, and International Class). The non-regular classes are designed to help you train and prepare for the more advanced regular ones. AKC is available only to registered dogs of that organization. 4-H is offered to any dog of any breed or mix of breeds. (The exception is any wolf or wolf mix.)

In 4-H, the "A" classes denote inexperience for both the handler and dog. 4-H rules for the A classes have been designed to assist and encourage the exhibitor and dog while preparing for the "B" classes. When a 4-H'er and/or dog participate in "sanctioned" matches or trials for any dog organization or have like training to that equivalent level, they are no longer eligible for the A classes and move to B. This is a very desirable accomplishment and should be encouraged by advisors and parents.

Handler's Appearance

While dressing for obedience is less formal than when dressing for showmanship, exhibitors still need to be neat, clean, and well-groomed, and to complement their dogs. Examples of *acceptable* clothing for obedience include slacks, dress shorts, skorts, capri or crop pants, dress jeans, collared blouses and shirts, polo shirts, or similar attire. Shoes should have non-slip soles and low or no heels. Handlers should practice running and bending over in their show outfits. They should practice handling their dogs in the show clothes and shoes they have chosen to wear.

Clothing that is too tight or too revealing is distracting, and exhibitors will be penalized. *Unacceptable* clothing includes 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, hats, shirts with club names or logos, clothing with lettering and distracting or offensive wording or designs, sandals, open-toed shoes, clogs, or similar type shoes. If a skirt is worn, care should be taken so that it does not flap in the dog's face. Excessive or oversized jewelry, sashes, and anything that will touch or distract the dog should not be worn. Items should not be worn in hair that detracts from the team's overall presentation.

Hair that must be continually brushed out of the eyes or that falls over the dog when you are showing is distracting. Long hair should be in a braid or ponytail, or clipped in place out of the handler's face.

As in showmanship and all dog shows, armbands are worn on the left arm.

It is important for the handler to relax, smile and act happy while showing! A pleasant attitude and good sportsmanship will go a long way toward making the handler and his or her dog a winning team.

Ring Size

Obedience rings should be rectangular in shape. The recommended size for an indoor ring is about 40 x 50 feet for all obedience classes. The Novice and Open ring should not be less than 30 x 40 feet. The Utility ring should not be less than 35 x 50 feet. The floor must have a surface or covering that provides firm footing for all dogs. Rubber or similar non-slip material must be laid for the takeoffs and landings of all jumps unless the judge feels the surface does not require it.

The recommended size for a ring at an outdoor show or trial is 40 x 50 feet. The ground must be clean and level. If there is grass, it must be cut short. For Graduate Novice and Open classes, the show committee is responsible for providing an appropriate place, approved by the judge, for the handlers to go completely out of sight of their dogs. If inclement weather necessitates the judging be moved under shelter, the requirements as to ring size may be waived.

Leashes

Leashes may be of fabric or leather and must be 6 feet in length for sub-novice classes. For other classes, the leash need be only of sufficient length to provide adequate slack in the heel on leash exercise. Chain leashes are not acceptable.

All dogs must be kept on leash except when in the obedience ring or exercise area, and must be brought into and taken out of the ring on leash. Dogs must be kept on leash in the ring when brought in to receive awards, and when waiting before and after the group exercises. Unless designated otherwise, the handler will leave the leash on the judge's table between the individual exercises and during all exercises performed off leash.

Collars

Obedience collars include well-fitting plain buckle or quick release collars, or slip collars of an appropriate single length of leather, fabric or chain with two rings, one on each end. Fancy collars, harnesses, studded collars, pinch collars, collars with prongs or spikes on inside or outside, electronic collars, or any other special training collars, or collars that are either too tight or so large that they hang down unreasonably in front of the dogs are not permitted. Nothing may be hanging from the dog's collar.

Dogs are not permitted to wear any type of muzzle, prong collar, or electronic collar while on the Fairgrounds, and are subject to disqualification from showing if found wearing these devices.

Dumbbells

Dumbbells must be made either of: (1) one or more solid pieces of wood or of (2) non-wooden material similar in size, shape and weight to a wooden dumbbell. Metal dumbbells are not permitted. Dumbbells may not be hollowed out. They may be unfinished, coated with a clear finish, or may be any color. They may not have decorations or attachments, but may bear an inconspicuous mark for identification. The size of the dumbbell should be proportionate to the size of the dog. The dumbbell must be approved by the judge.

When handling the dumbbell, hold it by one of the ends, not by the bar. The dog should be taught to hold it securely by the bar.

Hair in Eyes

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

Bait

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

Heel Position

The heel position, as defined in these guidelines, applies whether the dog is sitting, standing, lying down, or moving at a heel. The dog should be at the handler's left side straight in line with the direction the handler is facing. The area from the dog's head to shoulder is to be in line with the handler's left hip. The dog should be close to the handler so the handler has freedom of motion at all times. The dog should not crowd the handler. When beginning the heel, step off with your left foot. This is not considered an extra command.

Hands

Hands are to be carried naturally at the handler's side. The exception is when heeling. The leash may be held in either hand or both hands, but the hands must be help in a natural position. Any tightening or jerking of the leash and use of extra commands and/or signals is penalized. Determine how you are going to hold your leash and hands prior to the first command you give your dog. The leash and hand position you begin your heeling exercise with should be the position you use throughout the heeling exercise, without any adjustment.

In any exercise requiring the dog to sit in front, the handler's arms and hands must hang naturally at his/her sides until the dog has sat in front.

Commands and Signals

When the rules say "**command or signal**," either a single command **or** signal may be given, **not** both. Handlers will be penalized for giving extra commands or signals, or for giving a command and signal simultaneously.

When the rules say "**command and/or signal**," the handler may give either a command **or** a signal, or both a command **and** signal simultaneously. When a signal is permitted, it must be a single gesture with one arm and hand only. The arm and hand must then be immediately returned to a natural position.

Delay in following a judge's order to give a command or signal will be penalized unless the judge directs the delay.

Signaling a correction to a dog will be penalized.

Signals must be inaudible and the handler must not touch the dog. Any unusual motion or noise may be considered a signal. Positioning of the arms and hands, and movements of the head and/or body that aid the dog are considered additional signals, with the following exception: the handler may bend the body and knees to bring his/her hand level with the dog's eyes while giving a signal to a dog in heel position. Also, in the Directed Retrieve exercise, handlers may bend their bodies and knees as far as necessary to give the direction to the dogs but must then stand up in a natural position with their arms at their sides.

The signal for downing a dog may be given **either** with the arm raised **or** with a down swing of the arm. Any pause in holding the arm upright followed by a down swing of the arm will be considered an additional signal.

Whistling of any kind is prohibited.

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

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

Additional Commands or Signals

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

Handling Between Exercises

When off leash in the Novice classes, the dog may be guided gently between exercises. No other physical guidance is permitted. 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 controllable.

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 is a substantial penalty for any dog that is picked up or carried at any time in the obedience ring.

Interference and Double Handling

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

Leaving the Ring

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

Fouling the Ring

A 25-point deduction will be made for any dog fouling the ring. The exhibitor and his/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 should confer with the show committee and other judges to determine scoring if fouling should occur.

Training, Disciplining, and Abuse in the Ring

The judge will not permit any handler to use excessive verbal commands, to move toward the dog to correct it, or to practice any exercise in the ring at any time. A dog whose handler disciplines it in the ring will be excused from further competition in the class. An exhibitor abusing a dog in the ring will be disqualified from the class, and may be directed to leave the Fairgrounds.

Misbehavior

Any display of fear or nervousness by the dog or any uncontrolled behavior such as barking, snapping, running away from its handler, etc. will be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior, whether it occurs during or between an exercise or before or after judging. The judge may excuse the dog from further competition in the class.

Any dog that attacks or attempts to attack any person in the ring will be disqualified. Any dog that attacks another dog or appears dangerous to other dogs in the ring will be disqualified.

Any dog displaying fearful, aggressive, threatening, unsafe or uncontrollable behavior at anytime in the Dog Show area or on the Fairgrounds may be excused from competition and/or removed from the Fairgrounds.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Judges and/or show officials have the right to deduct points from the Sportsmanship category on an exhibitor's score sheet if unsportsmanlike conduct is displayed at any time throughout the Ohio State Fair Dog Show and Activities prior to or during judging. Judges and/or show officials also have the right to disqualify any participant exhibiting poor sportsmanship at any time throughout the Ohio State Fair Dog Show and Activities from showing, participating in activities, and from receiving any awards. Anyone (exhibitors, parents, advisors, spectators, etc.) displaying unsportsmanlike conduct may be directed to leave the Fairgrounds.

Earning Obedience Titles Outside of 4-H

Exhibitors showing their dogs at any Licensed or Member Obedience Trial or at a Sanctioned Match must show their dogs at the same or higher *level B classes* than they are showing in AKC, UKC, or other titling shows. Dogs completing their Companion Dog (CD) title (or UKC, or other titling equivalents) *prior to, or anytime during, the project year* must show in Graduate Novice classes. Dogs completing their Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) title (or UKC, or other titling equivalents) *prior to, or anytime during, the project year* must show in Open, Graduate Open, or Utility classes. *Any dog receiving one or more legs toward a title anytime during the project year must then move into the appropriate B class at the time the first leg was earned.* Dogs earning a Rally Novice title prior to, or anytime during the project year, must show in the appropriate Rally Advanced class. *This rule, if applicable, supersedes exhibitor and dog information listed in the class descriptions found elsewhere in this document.* Fun matches do not apply.

Summary of Progression of Obedience Classes

- (J-1) Sub-Novice A - 1 year, then move to Sub-Novice B
- (J-2) Sub-Novice B - can repeat class with same dog or different dog unless class winner, then move to Novice A
- (J-3) Novice A - 1 year, then move to Novice B
- (J-4) Novice B - can repeat class with same dog or different dog unless class winner, then move to Grad Novice A
- (J-5) Graduate Novice A - 1 year, then move to Grad Novice B
- (J-6) Graduate Novice B - can repeat class with same dog or different dog unless class winner, then move to Open A
- (J-7) Open A - 1 year, then move to Open B
- (J-8) Open B - can repeat class with same dog or different dog unless class winner, then move to Grad Open A
- (J-9) Graduate Open A - 1 year, then move to Grad Open B
- (J-10) Graduate Open B - can repeat this class with same dog regardless of winning if not moving up to Utility
- (J-11) Utility A - 1 year, then move to Utility B
- (J-12) Utility B - can repeat this class with same dog regardless of winning

a. Refer to the J-1 through J-12 class descriptions in the *Rules for 2008 Ohio State Fair Dog Show Participation* for more details. Exhibitors must continually progress to a higher level of obedience training with the same dog. At the Ohio State Fair any previous participants (youth and dogs) in classes Sub-Novice A, Novice A, Graduate Novice A, Open A, Graduate Open A and Utility A may not enter the same class ever again. First place winners (youth and dogs) of Sub-Novice B, Novice B, Graduate Novice B, and Open B, are not permitted to repeat the same class with the same dog. First place winners (youth and dogs) of Graduate Open B and Utility B may repeat this class each year.

b. Participants in Sub-Novice B, Novice B, Graduate Novice B, and Open B can show in these classes every year with the same dog, unless winning first place. Participants in Graduate Open B and Utility B can show in these classes every year with the same dog, regardless of winning.

c. Dogs of first place winners in obedience classes are not permitted to be shown in the same or lower level obedience classes again, except they may be shown in Graduate Open B or Utility B every year.

d. Dogs that have placed in obedience classes may repeat the same classes provided they are not performing at a higher level. They may never show in a lower level obedience class again.

Progressive Ring Judging

At the Ohio State Fair, a Progressive Ring style of judging is used for Sub-Novice and Novice obedience classes. For Sub-Novice, the Heel on Leash and Figure 8 on Leash are judged in the first ring. When finished, the youth and his/her dog then progress to the next ring for the Stand for Exam on Leash and Recall on Leash. The steward takes the youth's score sheet from the first ring to the second ring. Once finished with these first four exercises, the youth and dog are directed to a holding area for a short wait until there are a minimum of 5 dogs to be judged on the Long Sit and Long Down exercises. For Novice, the Heel on Leash and Figure 8 and Heel Free are judged in the first ring. They then move to the second ring for the Stand for Exam

(off leash) and Recall (off leash). Once finished they go to the holding area to wait for the Long Sit and Long Down exercises to be judged.

Sub-Novice A and B Class Information

Sub-Novice A

This class is for the beginning exhibitor and beginning dog. Neither exhibitor nor dog has had any prior obedience experience before April 1, 2008, or their county's 4-H enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. *This means that the exhibitor and/or dog cannot have any kind of formalized training. If they have had any training, they must enter the Sub-Novice B class. This includes counties who have "pre-sub-novice" or similar classes. Those exhibitors/dogs must enter Sub-Novice B classes at the state fair level.* Once an exhibitor shows in this class, he/she must move to Sub-Novice B at the very minimum. Once a dog has been shown in this class, the dog must be shown at the Sub-Novice B level at the very minimum. All youth receiving a score of 200 points or above will receive an Outstanding of the Day rosette.

Sub-Novice B

This class is for the exhibitor or dog who has shown in Sub-Novice A or has had experience at the Sub-Novice level *before* April 1, 2008, or their county's 4-H enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. They have not yet progressed to Novice level or higher. The first place winner must move to Novice A or higher with that same dog. The dog of a first place winner in the Sub-Novice B class must then be shown at the Novice A level at the very minimum. If an exhibitor and/or dog places in Sub-Novice B at the Ohio State Fair, he/she can repeat this class at the state level provided the county requirements have been met, and the dog is not performing at the Novice level or higher. Dogs shown in this class cannot show at the Sub-Novice A level. A first place trophy and 1 – 15 placing rosettes will be awarded.

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

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

Heel on Leash

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

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

The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the heel position. The judge will say to the handler, "*Are you ready?*" The handler should answer either "*Yes,*" or "*No.*" When the handler is ready the judge will give the order,

“Forward.” The handler and dog walk briskly, and in a natural manner, with the dog on a loose leash. The dog should walk close to the handler’s left side without swinging wide, lagging, forging, or crowding. The area from the dog’s head to shoulder should be in line with the handler’s left hip. The dog must not interfere with the handler’s freedom of motion at any time. The handler may give a command **OR** signal to heel, **NOT** both.

Remaining Orders given by the Judge:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

At the completion of the Heel exercise, the judge will say, “***Exercise Finished.***” At this time it is appropriate for the handler to praise his/her dog.

Figure Eight

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

Stand for Examination

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

On the judge’s order, the handler will take his/her dog to the place indicated by the judge and have the dog sit in heel position. On the judge’s order to “*Stand your dog, and leave when you are ready*,” the handler will stand/pose the dog by the method of the handler’s choice, taking any reasonable time if he/she chooses to pose the dog as in the show ring. The handler will then stand with the dog in the heel position and give the command **and/or** signal to stay. The handler will then leave from heel position, walk straight forward about six (6) feet, and turn and face the dog.

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

Recall

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

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

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

Group Exercises:

Long Sit (1 minute)

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

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

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

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

After one minute from the time the judge has ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, the judge will give the order to "*Return to your dogs.*" The handlers must go back promptly, walking around and in back of their own dog to the heel position. The dogs must not move from the sitting position until after the judge has said, "*Exercise finished.*" This order will not be given until the handlers are back in heel position.

Long Down (3 minutes)

The purpose of this exercise is for the dog to remain in the down position for three (3) minutes. The judge's orders are "*Down your dogs,*" "*Leave your dogs,*" and "*Return to your dogs.*"

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

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

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

The dogs will not be required to sit at the end of this exercise.

(Note: Sub-Novice follows the AKC Pre-Novice Class Exercises and Score Sheet.)

Novice A and B Class Information

Novice A

In this class neither the exhibitor nor dog has had any prior experience at the Novice level before April 1, 2008, or their county's 4-H enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. Once an exhibitor shows in this class, he/she must move to Novice B or a higher level. Once a dog has been shown in this class, the dog must be shown at the Novice B level or higher. A first place trophy and 1 – 15 placing rosettes will be awarded.

Novice B

This class is for the exhibitor or dog who has shown in Novice A or has had experience at the Novice level before April 1, 2008, or their county's 4-H enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. They have not yet progressed to Graduate Novice A level or higher. The first place winner must move to Graduate Novice A or higher with that same dog. The dog of a first place winner in the Novice B class must then be shown at the Graduate Novice A level at the very minimum. If an exhibitor and/or dog places in Novice B at the Ohio State Fair, he/she can repeat this class at the state level provided the county requirements have been met, and the dog is not performing at the Graduate Novice level of higher. Dogs shown in this class cannot show in any lower levels of dog obedience at the Ohio State Fair. A first place trophy and 1 – 15 placing rosettes will be awarded.

Novice Exercises	Maximum Scores
1. Heel on Leash and Figure 8	40 points
2. Stand for Examination	30 points
3. Heel Free	40 points
4. Recall	30 points
5. Long Sit	30 points
6. Long Down	30 points

Heel on Leash and Figure Eight

*(This exercise is done **On Leash**)* Refer to the Sub-Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise descriptions. The Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight will be done as one exercise.

Stand for Examination

This exercise is done off leash. On the judge's order, the handler will remove the leash and give it to a steward, who will place it on the judge's table or other designated place. Refer to the Sub-Novice Stand for Examination exercise description.

Heel Free

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

Recall

This exercise is performed the same as the Sub-Novice Recall, but without the leash. The handler will walk to the other end of the ring and stand with both arms and hands hanging naturally at the sides of the body. On the judge's order, the handler will either command **OR** signal the dog to come.

Group Exercises:

Long Sit (1 minute) and Long Down (3 minutes)

Both the Long Sit and Long Down exercises are performed the same as the Sub-Novice Long Sit and Long Down, but without a leash. Before starting the Long Sit and Long Down, the judge will ask if the handlers are ready. When the judge gives the order, the handlers will command **and/or** signal their dogs to sit (if not already sitting) or to down. On further order to "*Leave your dogs,*" the handlers will give a command **and/or** signal to stay and immediately will go to the opposite side of the ring, turn, and face their dogs.

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

At one minute from the time the judge has ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, the judge will give the order, "*Return to your dogs.*" The handlers must go back promptly, walking around and in back of his/her own dog to the heel position. The dogs must not move from the sitting or down position until after the judge has said, "*Exercise finished.*" This order will not be given until the handlers are back in heel position.

For the Long Down, on the judge's order the handlers will down their dogs without touching either the dogs or their collars, so that the dogs are facing the opposite side of the ring.

Novice A and Novice B classes can be combined for the Long Sit, and for the Long Down, provided there are no more than 12 dogs in any one group if the ring is 50 feet long and no more than 10 dogs in any one group if the ring is 40 feet long.

Graduate Novice A and B Class Information

Graduate Novice A

In this class neither the exhibitor nor dog has had any prior experience at the Graduate Novice level before April 1, 2008, or their county's 4-H enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. Once an exhibitor shows in this class, he/she must move to Graduate Novice B or a higher level. Once a dog has been shown in this class, the dog must be shown at the Graduate Novice B level or higher. A first place trophy and 1 – 15 placing rosettes will be awarded in this class.

Graduate Novice B

This class is for the exhibitor or dog who has shown in Graduate Novice A or has had experience at the Graduate Novice level before April 1, 2008, or their county's 4-H enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. They have not yet progressed to Open A level or higher. The first place winner must move to Open A or higher with that same dog. The dog of a first place winner in the Graduate Novice B class must then be shown at the Open A level at the very minimum. The dog of a first place winner in the Graduate Novice B class must then be shown at the Open A level. If an exhibitor and/or dog places in Graduate Novice B at the Ohio State Fair, he/she can repeat this class at the state level provided the county requirements have been met, and the dog is not performing at the Open level or higher. Dogs shown in this class cannot show in any lower levels of dog obedience at the Ohio State Fair. A first place trophy and 1 – 15 placing rosettes will be awarded in this class.

Graduate Novice Exercises

	Maximum Scores
1. Heel on Leash and Figure Eight (off Leash)	40 points
2. Drop on Recall	40 points
3. Dumbbell Recall	30 points
4. Recall over High Jump	30 points
5. Recall over Broad Jump	30 points
6. Long Down	30 points

Heel On Leash and Figure Eight Off Leash

This exercise will be executed in the same manner as the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise, except that the dog will be off leash for the Figure 8. Orders are the same as in Heel on Leash and Figure Eight.

Drop on Recall

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

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

On the judge's order, the handler may give a command **and/or** signal for the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will walk forward to the other end of the ring, then turn, facing his/her dog, and stand naturally, with both hands at the sides of the body. On the judge's order or

signal, the handler will **either** command **or** signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly at a brisk trot or gallop. On the judge's arm or hand signal, the handler shall give the command **and/or** signal to drop, and the dog must drop immediately to a complete down position. The dog must remain down until the judge gives the order or signal for the handler to signal **or** command the dog to come. The dog finishes the exercise as in the Novice Recall.

Dumbbell Recall

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

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

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

Recall Over High Jump

The purpose of the exercise is for the dog to stay until directed to jump, clear the jump on a single command or signal, and immediately return to sit in front of the handler.

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

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet from the jump. When the judge orders, "Leave your dog," the handler will give the command **and/or** signal to stay, go **at least** 8 feet beyond the other side of the high jump, and turn and face the dog as in the Novice Recall. On the judge's order, the handler will give the command **or** signal to jump. The dog must clear the high jump without touching it and, without any further command or signal, immediately sit in front of the handler. The finish is done as in the Novice Recall.

In Ohio 4-H, all dogs are given the option of jumping either full or three-quarters (¾) of their height at the withers for the high jump. The minimum jump will be set at the nearest multiple of 2 inches to three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers for the following breeds:

Argentine Dogo	Basset Hounds	Bergamasco
Bernese Mountain Dogs	Black Russian Terriers	Bloodhounds
Borzoi	Bulldogs	Bullmastiffs
Cardigan Welsh Corgis	Caucasian Mountain Dog	Clumber Spaniels
Dachshunds	Estrela Mountain Dog	French Bulldogs
Grand Basset Griffon Vendeen	Great Danes	Great Pyrenees
Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs	Irish Wolfhounds	Kooikerhondje
Kuvasz	Lagotto Romagnolo	Leonberger
Mastiffs	Neapolitan Mastiff	Newfoundlands
Otterhound	Portuguese Podengo	Saint Bernards
Skye Terriers	Sussex Spaniel	Thai Ridgeback

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

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

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

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

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

Recall Over Broad Jump

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

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

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

responsibility to see that the distance jumped by each dog is in accordance with these regulations.

Long Down

The Long Down exercise will be performed as in the Open Group Exercise, with the handlers out of sight, except that the judge will order the handlers to return after three (3) minutes.

Open A and B Class Information

Open A

In this class neither the exhibitor nor dog has had any prior experience at the Open level before April 1, 2008 or their county's 4-H enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. Once an exhibitor shows in this class, he/she must move to Open B or a higher level. Once a dog has been shown in this class, the dog must be shown at the Open B level or higher. A first place trophy and 1 – 15 placing rosettes will be awarded in this class.

Open B

This class is for the exhibitor or dog who has shown in Open A or has had experience at the Open level before April 1, 2008, or their county's 4-H enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. They have not yet progressed to the Graduate Open level or higher. The first place winner must move to Graduate Open A or higher with that same dog. The dog of a first place winner in the Open B class must then be shown at the Graduate Open A level at the very minimum. The dog of a first place winner in the Open B class must then be shown at the Graduate Open A level at the very minimum. If an exhibitor and/or dog places in Open B at the Ohio State Fair, he/she can repeat this class at the state level provided the county requirements have been met, and the dog is not performing at the Graduate Open level or higher. Dogs shown in this class cannot show in any lower levels of dog obedience at the Ohio State Fair. A first place trophy and 1 – 15 placing rosettes will be awarded.

All exercises will be performed Off Leash

Open Exercises	Maximum Scores
1. Heel Free and Figure 8	40 points
2. Drop on Recall	30 points
3. Retrieve on Flat	20 points
4. Retrieve over High Jump	30 points
5. Broad Jump	20 points
6. Long Sit	30 points
7. Long Down	30 points

Heel Free and Figure Eight

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

Drop on Recall

The purpose of this exercise, in addition to those listed under the Novice Recall, is the dog's prompt response to the handler's command or signal to drop, and the dog's remaining in

the down position until again called or signaled to come. The dog will be judged on the promptness of its response to the command or signal.

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

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

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

Retrieve on Flat

The purpose of this exercise is to show that the dog can retrieve promptly. Orders are “*Throw it,*” “*Send your dog,*” “*Take it,*” and “*Finish.*”

The handler will stand with his/her dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. On the judge’s order, “*Throw it,*” the handler will give the command **and/or** signal to stay. If the handler does use a signal, that signal may not be given with the hand that is holding the dumbbell. After the dumbbell is thrown at least 20 feet, the judge will order the handler, “*Send your dog.*” The retrieve should be executed at a brisk trot or gallop. The dog will go directly to the dumbbell and retrieve it, returning directly to the handler as in the Novice Recall without unnecessary mouthing or playing. On order from the judge to “*Take it,*” the handler will give command or signal and take the dumbbell. The finish will be executed as in the Novice Recall.

The judge will require the dumbbell to be thrown again before the dog is sent if it is thrown less than 20 feet, too far to one side, or too close to the ring’s edge.

Retrieve Over High Jump

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

Refer to the Graduate Novice Recall Over High Jump for jump height information.

Broad Jump

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

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet from the jump facing the lowest side of the lowest hurdle. (This 8-foot distance should be clearly marked.) On order from the judge to “*Leave your dog,*” the handler will give the command **and/or** signal to stay and go to a position facing the right side of the jump. The handler may stand anywhere

between the lowest edge of the first hurdle and the highest edge of the last hurdle with their toes about 2 feet from the jump.

On the judge's order, the handler will give the command **or** signal to jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler will execute a right-angle turn, but will remain in the same spot. The dog will clear the entire distance of the hurdle without touching them and, without further command or signal, immediately return to a sitting position in front of the handler, finishing as in the Novice Recall.

Refer to the Graduate Novice Recall Over Broad Jump for jump information.

Group Exercises (Long Sit and Long Down)

During these exercises the judge will stand so that all the dogs are in their line of vision. Without having to turn around, judges should be able to see all the handlers as they leave and return to the ring.

These exercises are performed in the same manner as in the Novice Classes, except that the handlers must cross to the opposite side of the ring then leave in a single file and go completely out of the dogs' sight. Counting from the judge's order to "*Leave your dogs,*" the handlers must remain in the place designated by the judge until three (3) minutes have passed for the Long Sit and five (5) minutes have passed for the Long Down. On the judge's orders, the handlers will return to the ring in reverse order, lining up to face their dogs at the opposite side of the ring, and return to their dogs.

The judge's orders are the same as in the Novice Group Exercises.

Graduate Open A and B Class Information

Graduate Open A

In this class neither the exhibitor nor dog has had any prior experience at the Graduate Open level, or a higher level of dog obedience, before April 1, 2008 or their county's 4-H enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. Once an exhibitor shows in this class, he/she must move to Graduate Open B or a higher level. Once a dog has been shown in this class, the dog must then be shown at the Graduate Open B level or higher. Exercises performed are the same as J-10. A first place trophy and 1 – 15 placing rosettes will be awarded.

Graduate Open B

This class is for the exhibitor or dog who has shown in Graduate Open A or has had prior experience at the Graduate Open level, or a higher level of dog obedience before April 1, 2008 or their county's 4-H enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. They have not yet progressed to the Utility A level or higher. If an exhibitor and/or dog wins *first place or places* in Graduate Open B at the Ohio State Fair, he/she can repeat this class at the state level provided the county requirements have been met, and the dog is not performing at the Utility level. Dogs shown in this class cannot show in any lower levels of dog obedience at the Ohio State Fair. A first place trophy and 1 – 15 placing rosettes will be awarded.

All exercises will be performed Off Leash

Graduate Open Exercises	Maximum Scores
1. Signal Exercise	40 points
2. Scent Discrimination	30 points
3. Directed Retrieve	30 points
4. Moving Stand and Exam	30 points

- 5. Go Out 30 points
- 6. Directed Jumping 40 points

Signal Exercise

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

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

Heeling will be done as in the Heel Free, except that the handler may use signals only and must not speak to their dog at any time during this exercise.

While the dog is heeling at one end of the ring at a normal pace, the judge will order the handler to "*Stand your dog.*" On further order to "*Leave your dog,*" the handler will give the command **and/or** signal the dog to stay, go out from 10 to 20 feet, then turn and face the dog. On the judge's signal, the handler will give the command **and/or** signals to down, sit, come, and finish as in the Novice Recall.

Scent Discrimination

The principal feature of this exercise is the selection of the handler's article from among the other articles by scent alone, and the prompt delivery of the correct article to the handler. This exercise will be the same as in the Utility Scent Discrimination exercise, except that (1) there will only be four articles (two leather and two metal), (2) the handler and dog will remain facing the articles, and (3) only one article will be retrieved. It is the handler's discretion as to which article is retrieved. Refer to the Utility Scent Discrimination exercise explanation.

Directed Retrieve

The exercise will be performed as the Utility Directed Retrieve exercise, except that no center glove is used. Refer to the Utility Directed Retrieve exercise explanation.

Moving Stand and Examination

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

Go Out

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

The handler will stand in the approximate center of the ring between the jumps facing the unobstructed end of the ring. The judge will order "*Send your dog,*" and the handler will command **and/or** signal the dog to go forward at a brisk trot or gallop to a point about 20 feet past the jumps in the approximate center of the ring. When the dog reaches this point, the handler will give a command to sit. The dog must stop and sit with its attention on the handler, but it need not sit squarely.

The judge will then order the handler, "*Return to your dog,*" and the handler will return to the heel position.

Directed Jumping

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

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at the unobstructed end and in the center of the ring. The judge will order “*Leave your dog,*” and the handler will walk to the far end of the ring and turn to face the dog. The judge will order either “*Bar*” or “*High*” for the jump, and the handler will command **and/or** signal the dog to return to the handler over that designated jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler may turn to face the dog as it returns. The dog will sit in front of the handler, and, on order from the judge, finish as in the Novice Recall. The dog will be sent over only one jump, and the same jump will be used for all dogs as designated by the judge at the start of the class.

Utility A & B Class Information

Utility A

In this class neither the exhibitor nor dog has had any prior experience at the Utility level before April 1, 2008 or their county’s 4-H enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. Once an exhibitor shows in this class, he/she must move to Utility B. Once a dog has been shown in this class the dog must then be shown at the Utility B level. A first place trophy and 1 – 15 placing rosettes will be awarded.

Utility B

This class is for the exhibitor who or dog that has shown in Utility A or has had prior experience at the Utility level before April 1, 2008 or their county’s enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. If an exhibitor and/or dog wins first place or places in Utility B at the Ohio State Fair, he/she can repeat this class at the state level provided the county requirements have been met, and the exhibitor has been selected to show at the Ohio State Fair. Dogs shown in this class cannot show in any lower levels of dog obedience at the Ohio State Fair. A first place trophy and 1 – 15 placing rosettes will be awarded.

All exercises will be performed Off Leash

Utility Exercises	Maximum Scores
1. Signal Exercise	40 points
2. Scent Discrimination Article No. 1	30 points
3. Scent Discrimination Article No. 2	30 points
4. Directed Retrieve	30 points
5. Directed Jumping	40 points

Signal Exercise

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

Orders are the same as in the Novice Heel on Leash, except for the judge’s order to “*Stand your dog.*” This order will only be given when dog and handler are walking at a normal pace and will be followed by the order “*Leave your dog.*” The judge must use signals for

directing the handler to signal the dog to down, sit, come (in that sequence) and to finish.

Heeling will be done as in the Heel Free, except that the handler may use signals only and must not speak to his/her dog at any time during this exercise.

While the dog is heeling at one end of the ring, the judge will order the handler to “*Stand your dog.*” On further order to “*Leave your dog,*” the handler will signal the dog to stay, go to the other end of the ring, then turn and face the dog. On the judge’s signal, the handler will give the signals to down, sit, come, and finish as in the Novice Recall.

Scent Discrimination

The purpose of these exercises is the selection of the handler’s article from among the other articles by scent alone and the prompt delivery of the correct article to the handler.

The judge will ask, “*What method will you be using to send your dog?*” The handler must respond with either “*After a sit*” or “*Send directly.*” The judge will then ask, “*Are you Ready?*” immediately prior to taking the article from the handler. This taking of the article will be considered to be the first order, and scoring of the exercise will begin at that time. The remaining orders are “*Send your dog,*” “*Take it,*” and “*Finish.*”

In each of these two exercises, the dog must select and retrieve an article that has been handled by its handler. The dog must make this selection based on scent alone.

The articles will be provided by the handler and will consist of two sets, each comprised of five identical objects, which may be items of everyday use. The size of the articles will be proportionate to the size of the dog. One set must be made entirely of rigid metal and one of leather, designed so that only a minimum amount of thread or other material is visible. The articles in each set will be legibly numbered with a different number and must be approved by the judge.

The handler will present all ten articles to the judge, who will make a written note of the numbers on the two articles they have selected. These articles will be placed on a table or chair within the ring until the handler picks each up separately. The judge or steward will handle each of the remaining eight articles while randomly arranging them on the floor or ground about 6 inches apart. The closest article should be about 20 feet from the handler and dog. Before the dog is sent, the judge must make sure that the articles are visible to both dog and handler and that they are far enough apart so that there will be no confusion of scent among articles.

After the articles have been put out, the handler and dog will turn around and will remain facing away until the judge has given the order, “*Send your dog.*” The handler may use either article first, but must hand it to the judge immediately when ordered. The judge will make certain the handler scents each article with his/her hands only.

On the judge’s order, the handler will place the article on the judge’s book or work sheet. Without touching that article, the judge *or steward* will place it among the others.

On order from the judge to “*Send your dog,*” the handler may give the command to heel and will turn in place, either right or left, to face the articles. The handler will come to a halt with the dog sitting in the heel position. The handler will then give the command *or* signal to retrieve. Handlers may, on order from the judge to “*Send your dog,*” do a right about-turn, simultaneously giving the command *or* signal to retrieve. In this case, the dog should not assume a sitting position but must go directly to the articles. Handlers have the option as to how the dog is sent.

The handler may give his/her scent by extending the palm of one hand in front of the dog’s nose or gently touching the dog’s nose, but the arm and hand must be returned to a natural position before they turn and face the articles.

The dog should go directly to the articles at a brisk trot or gallop. It may take any reasonable time to select the correct article but must work continuously. After picking up the

correct article, the dog will complete the exercise as in the Retrieve on Flat. This procedure should be followed for both articles.

If a dog retrieves the wrong first article, that article and the correct one must be removed. They will be placed on the table or chair, and the next exercise will be done with one less article.

Directed Retrieve

The purpose of this exercise is for the dog to stay until directed to retrieve, and for it to go directly to the designated glove and retrieve it promptly. In this exercise the handler will provide three gloves that are predominately white. They must be open and must be approved by the judge. The handler will stand with his/her back to the unobstructed end of the ring midway between and in line with the jumps. The dog will be sitting in heel position. The judge or steward will drop the gloves across the end of the ring while the handler and dog are facing the opposite direction. One glove is dropped about 3 feet in from each corner, and the remaining glove is dropped in the center, about 3 feet from the end of the ring.

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

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

The judge should decide how to assign the gloves so that each glove will be used approximately the same number of times.

Moving Stand and Examination

The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the dog’s ability to heel, stand, and stay as the handler moves away; accept the examination without shyness or resentment; and return to the handler on command.

The judge’s orders for the exercise are “*Forward,*” “*Stand your dog,*” and “*Call your dog to heel.*”

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position at a point indicated by the judge. The judge will ask, “*Are you ready?*” and then will order, “*Forward.*” The handler will command **or** signal the dog to heel. After the handler has proceeded about 10 feet, the judge will order, “*Stand your dog.*” Without pausing, the handler will command **and/or** signal the dog to stand and continue forward about 10 to 12 feet. The handler will then turn either to the right or left to face the dog, which must stand and stay in position.

The judge will approach the dog from the front to examine it as in dog show judging. The exam will not include the teeth or testicles.

When the judge orders, “*Call your dog to heel,*” the handler will command **and/or** signal the dog to return to the heel position. The dog should return to heel position in a brisk manner.

Directed Jumping

The purpose of this exercise is for the dog to go away from the handler to the opposite end of the ring, stop, jump as directed, and return as in the Novice Recall. The orders are “*Send your dog,*” “*Bar,*” “*High,*” and “*Finish.*”

The jumps will be placed midway in the ring at right angles to the longest sides of the

ring about 18 to 20 feet apart. The judge must see that the jumps are set at the required height for each dog, as described in the Retrieve Over High Jump.

The handler will stand in the approximate center of the ring with the dog sitting in heel position, about 20 feet from the jumps and midway between them. Upon order from the judge, the handler will command **and/or** signal the dog to go forward at a brisk trot or gallop to a point about 20 feet past the jumps in the approximate center of the unobstructed end of the ring. When the dog reaches this point, the handler will give a command to sit. The dog must stop and sit with its attention on the handler, but it need not sit squarely.

The judge will order either “*Bar*” or “*High*” for the first jump, and the handler will command **and/or** signal the dog to return to the handler over the designated jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler may turn to face the dog as it returns. The dog will sit in front of the handler and, on order from the judge, finish as in the Novice Recall. After the dog has returned to heel position, the judge will say, “*Exercise finished.*”

When the dog is set up for the second half of this exercise, the judge will ask, “*Are you ready?*” before giving the order for the second part of the exercise. The same procedure will be followed for the second jump.

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

The height of the jumps and construction of the high jump will be the same as required in the Open Classes. The bar jump will consist of a bar between 2 and 2-1/2 inches square with the edges rounded to remove any sharpness. The bar will be flat black and white in alternate sections, each about 3 inches wide. The bar will have the weight of wood. It will be supported by two unconnected 4-foot upright posts about 5 feet apart and must be adjustable for each 2 inches of height from 8 inches to 36 inches. The jump must be built so that the bar may be knocked off without affecting the uprights.

Brace and Team Class Information

Brace

The Brace Class will be for two dogs (either of the same breed, of different breeds, or mixed breeds) that are capable of performing the Novice exercises. ***Sub-novice dogs cannot participate in this class.*** The exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *Rules for 2008 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Participation*. Both dogs shown by a youth in Brace must be that youth’s dog projects. One dog cannot be another family member’s show dog or another youth’s project.

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

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

A first place trophy and 1 – 15 placing rosettes will be awarded.

Team

This class will be for teams of four exhibitors and their dogs that meet the eligibility requirements of the *Rules for 2007 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Participation*. The same four dogs will perform all exercises.

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

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

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

Sub-Novice Team

This class will be for teams of four exhibitors and their dogs that meet the eligibility requirements for the *2008 Ohio State Fair Junior Dog Show Rules of Participation*. The same four dogs will perform all exercises. The handlers and dogs on a team will perform the exercises simultaneously and will be judged as specified for the Sub-Novice class. All exercises will be done on lead. In the Recall exercise, on the order from the judge, handlers will simultaneously walk forward to the end of the leash and turn to face their dogs. On the judge's order, handlers will call or signal dogs to come one at a time. The finish will be done in unison on order from the judge. ***This class is for Sub Novice Dogs only.*** Dogs showing in a higher class (Novice or above) are ineligible to compete in the Sub-Novice Team class. A first place trophy and 1-15 placing rosettes will be awarded.

Advanced Team

This class will be for teams of four exhibitors and their dogs that meet the eligibility requirements for the *2008 Ohio State Fair Junior Dog Show Rules of Participation*. The same four dogs will perform all exercises. *The handlers and dogs on a team will perform the exercises simultaneously and will be judged as specified for the Novice class except a Drop on Recall will be used in place of the Recall exercise.* Novice dogs and handlers are permitted to work on and perform the Drop on Recall while retaining their Novice status.

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

A first place trophy and 1-15 place rosettes will be awarded.

Team Scoring

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

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

Sub-Novice Team Exercises	Advanced Team Exercises	Max. Points
1. Heel on Leash	1. Heel on Leash	160
2. Figure 8	2. Stand for Examination	120
3. Stand for Examination	3. Heel Free	160
4. Recall	4. Drop on Recall	120
5. Long Sit	5. Long Sit	120
6. Long Down	6. Long Down	120
Maximum Possible Points		800

Rally Class Information

Note: Effective January 1, 2008, the Rally section of the AKC Obedience Regulations is null and void. Refer to this pdf file for revisions to the Rally Regulations:

http://www.akc.org/pdfs/about/board_minutes/Rally_Regulations.pdf

Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by the rally judge. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at their own pace through a course of designated stations (10 - 20, depending on the level). Each of these stations has a sign providing instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed. Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience.

The team of dog and handler moves continuously at a brisk, but normal, pace with the dog under control within a 2-foot area at the handler's left side. There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during the numbered exercises and between the exercise signs; however, perfect "heel position" is not required. After the judge's "Forward" order, the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered signs correctly.

Unlimited communication from the handler to the dog is to be encouraged and not penalized. Unless otherwise specified in these Regulations, handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement. Multiple commands and/or signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. The handler may not touch the dog or make physical corrections. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands or intimidating signals will be penalized.

Rally provides a link from the Canine Good Citizen® (CGC) program to obedience or agility competition, both for dogs and handlers. In addition, rally promotes fun and enjoyment for dogs at all levels of competition. *(The above information was taken from the AKC Rally Regulations with permission.)*

Rally Novice A

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog with no prior experience showing at any Rally level before April 1, 2008, or their county's enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. Exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *Rules for 2008 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Participation* to participate in Rally. Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded.

Rally Novice B

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has had prior experience showing at the Rally Novice level before April 1, 2008, or their county's enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. They have not yet progressed to the Rally Advanced A level or higher. Exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *Rules for 2008 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Participation* to participate in Rally. Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded.

The Rally Novice exhibitor's dog must: (1) be able to walk on a loose leash on the handler's left, (2) pay attention to his or her handler; (3) know how to sit at the heel and sit at the front positions; and (4) know how to perform the right and left finish exercises without the handler moving his or her feet. Evidence of teamwork between handler and dog must be present. (Source: *The Rally Course Book: A Guide to AKC Rally Courses*, Janice Dearth, 2004).

For Rally Novice classes, all exercises are judged on leash, and all dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. The leash must be made of fabric or leather and needs to be long enough to provide adequate slack. *Rally Novice A and B must have between 10 - 15 stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three (3) and maximum of five (5) stationary exercises per class.* There are no jumps.

Rally Advanced A

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has not had prior experience showing at the Rally Advanced level before April 1, 2008, or their county's enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. Exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *Rules for 2008 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Participation* to participate in Rally. Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded.

Rally Advanced B

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has had prior experience showing at the Rally Advanced level before April 1, 2008, or their county's enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. Exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *Rules for 2008 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Participation* to participate in Rally. Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded.

For Rally Advanced classes, all exercises are performed off leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. *Rally Advanced A and B must have between 12 - 17 stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) stationary exercises; courses shall have a minimum of three (3) Advanced level stations plus one (1) required jump per class.*

Jumps

One jump must be used for this class. It may be any jump used as standard equipment in AKC obedience classes (Broad Jump, High Jump, or Bar Jump), except 4 foot wide jumps may be used in place of 5 foot wide jumps. *A 4-inch High Jump board and Bar Jump will be supplied for dogs that have a height at the withers of less than 10 inches. This jump will be constructed so the maximum height does not exceed 4 inches, with a 1/2 inch tolerance. This can be a separate board or support system placed between the two standard uprights. The Bar or High Jump board used to create this 4-inch jump height can be supported by a means other than the two (2) standard uprights. Designs should be such that they do not interfere with the jumping of a dog.* Various colors and decorations are allowed; however,

there must be nothing hanging from the jump. It is the judge's responsibility to see that the jumps are set for each dog in accordance with these *Regulations*.

The **Broad Jump** will consist of three telescoping hurdles, each approximately 8 inches wide. The largest board will measure about 4 feet 10 inches long (if from a 5 foot set) and about 5 inches at the highest point.

In the ring, Broad Jump boards will be arranged in order of size from smallest to largest. They will be evenly spaced, covering a distance equal to twice the height of the High Jump set for each dog. *Three boards will be used for a jump of 32 inches, two boards for a jump of 16 or 24 inches, and one board will be used for a jump of 8 inches.* When decreasing the number of hurdles in the jump, the highest will be removed first.

The **High Jump** consists of two uprights and solid boards of varying widths that combine to make each dog's required jump height.

The **Bar Jump** also has two uprights. These are constructed to support only a striped bar which is set at the dog's required jump height. *The Bar Jump may be used in the same way as the High Jump; however, if the Bar Jump is to be used as a jump in both directions, the uprights must be offset to allow the bar to be knocked off from either direction.*

Jump Heights

The dog's jump height shall be given on the entry form. Entries **will** be arranged according to the jump height of the dogs, from either high to low or low to high.

Height of Dog at Withers	Height to be Jumped
<i>Less than 10 inches</i>	<i>4 inches</i>
<i>10 inches to less than 15 inches</i>	<i>8 inches</i>
<i>15 inches to less than 20 inches</i>	<i>12 inches</i>
<i>20 inches and over</i>	<i>16 inches</i>

4-H Obedience Scoring Guidelines

Ohio 4-H Obedience Regulations provide the foundation for judges to follow and define criteria for judges to use when judging 4-H dog shows in Ohio. Each judge is expected to be consistent in his/her scoring for each class judged at a given show. The same methods and standards must be used for judging and scoring "A" and "B" classes, as well as in judging and scoring the work of dogs of different or mixed breeds. However, each judge has his/her own personal standards and 4-H expects the judge to apply those standards to the best of his/her ability. There is no published list of reasonable and customary penalty points for various faults and errors, so there will be some variations in the scoring systems of individual judges.

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

Judges must be consistent in evaluating each handler and dog throughout the same obedience class or classes, such as all Sub-Novice A classes, at a given show. Judges must evaluate each handler and dog in accordance with these obedience regulations and not inject their own variations into the exercises. The judge is expected to evaluate each handler and dog team against a standard of a theoretically perfect performance in each exercise, and score each dog and

handler against this standard. Any action or inaction on the part of the handler or dog that results in the display less than that of a theoretically perfect performance should be penalized.

Maximum Point Deductions and Minimum to Substantial Point Deductions

The obedience 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.

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. A youth who makes no attempt to execute an exercise should receive a zero for that exercise..*** 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. 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.*** 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.)

Leaving the Ring

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

Fouling the Ring

A 25-point deduction will be made for any dog fouling the ring.

Excusals

Judges should excuse or disqualify a dog from the ring that attacks or attempts to attack any person in the ring, or attacks another dog or appears dangerous to other dogs. 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 excused. The judge shall not obtain the opinion of the health check officials. Judges should also excuse or disqualify a handler for abusing a dog in the ring or for displaying unsportsmanlike conduct.

Ties in Scoring

Ties will be broken as follows:

Sub-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.

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

GLOSSARY OF TERMS (Taken from AKC Obedience Regulations)

Brisk, briskly - keenly alive, alert, energetic

Command - verbal order from handler to dog

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

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

Directly - immediately, without deviation or hesitation

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

Gently - with kindness, without harshness or roughness

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

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

Maximum penalty - all points lost or Non-Qualifying zero;

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

Mouthing - when a dog chews or rolls the dumbbell in its mouth unnecessarily

Natural - not artificial; free of affectation; what is customarily expected in the home or public places

Order - direction from judge to handler, either verbal or nonverbal

Prompt response - without hesitation, immediate, quick

Resentment - resistance, unwillingness

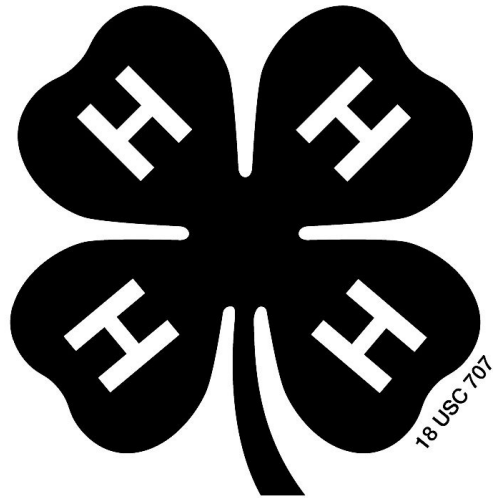
Signal - nonverbal direction from the handler to dog, as described in Chapter 2, Section 20

Smartly - quickly, vigorously

Substantial penalty - 3 points or more per fault or error

Turn in place - turning in the circle that was occupied by the handler before they started to turn

Withers - highest point of the dog's shoulder



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These Regulations were adapted and prepared with permission from the American Kennel Club (AKC) *Obedience Regulations* by Lucinda B. Miller, Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development, Companion and Small Animal Programs.

The AKC is a partner in the Ohio 4-H Dog Program.

Credit is given to James P. Adams, *Kansas Dog Show Rule Book*, Kansas State University, January 2005, which served as a model when developing these Regulations.

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