

## **BEGINNER NOVICE OPTIONAL TITLING CLASS**

(effective July 1, 2010)

**Section 1. Beginner Novice Class.** The Beginner Novice class shall be for dogs that have not won the BN title. The Beginner Novice class is an optional titling class that may be offered by clubs at obedience events. Judges for this class must be approved to judge Novice or higher classes. If eligible as defined in these regulations, dogs entered in Beginner Novice A or Beginner Novice B may also be entered in any other obedience classes.

**Section 2. Beginner Novice A Class.** To be eligible for Beginner Novice A, a handler must own the dog entered, or be a member of the owner's household or immediate family, and may not have previously handled any dog that has earned any AKC Obedience title. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. No dog may be entered in both Beginner Novice A and Beginner Novice B at any trial.

**Beginner Novice B Class.** The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class to earn a BN title. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. No dog may be entered in both Beginner Novice A and Beginner Novice B at any trial.

**Section 3. Beginner Novice Exercises and Scores.** The exercises and maximum scores in the Beginner Novice classes:

1. Heel on Leash 40 points
2. Figure Eight 40 points
3. Sit for Exam 40 points
4. Sit Stay 40 points
5. Recall 40 points

Maximum Total Score 200 points

**Section 4. Beginner Novice Title.** The letters BN may be added after the name of each dog that has been certified by two different judges to have received qualifying scores in Beginner Novice classes at three licensed or member obedience trials. That dog will receive a Beginner Novice certificate from the AKC.

Suggested judging rate of ten dogs per hour.

**Section 5. Heel on Leash.** The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. The orders for this exercise will be "Forward" and "Exercise Finished." Rally signs

will be used for this exercise. Signs to be used are "Right turn," "Left turn," "About turn," "Slow," "Normal," "Fast" and "Halt/Sit." "Fast"

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means that the handler must run, and the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed. Turns will be used only when the handler is moving at a normal speed.

Both change of pace signs must be followed by a normal sign. Turn signs may be placed in any sequence and may be repeated. Two of each turn sign must be available for the judge's use. The "Halt/Sit" sign will be used once at the end of the exercise. The judge should standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in the class.

The 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 ask if the handler is ready before giving the order, "Forward." The handler may give a command or signal to heel and will walk briskly and naturally with the dog on a loose leash. The dog should walk close to the handler's left side without swinging wide, lagging, forging, or crowding.

The dog must not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time. At the "Halt/Sit" sign, the handler will stop. The dog shall sit straight and promptly in the heel position without command or signal and shall not move until the handler again moves forward. The judge will order, "Exercise finished" at the completion of this exercise.

**Section 6. Heel on Leash, Scoring.** If a handler is constantly controlling the dog by tugging on the leash, constantly talking to the dog or is adapting to the dog's pace, that dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score for this exercise.

Minor deductions shall be made for lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, failure to sit at a halt, and other heeling imperfections. Deductions should also be made for a handler who guides the dog with the leash or does not walk at a brisk pace.

A one time single phrase of praise or encouragement, by the handler to the dog, will be allowed without penalty. (Good, yes, nice, super,

great, and atta boy/girl, are some examples of praise that would be allowed.)

Minor deductions will be made for additional commands or signals to heel or for failure of dog or handler to speed up noticeably for the fast or slow down noticeably for the slow.

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

**Section 7. Figure Eight.** The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. The orders for this exercise are: "Forward," "Halt," and "Exercise Finished."

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For the Figure Eight, the handler will stand and the dog will sit in heel position facing the judge, midway between the two stewards, who will be standing 8 feet apart. The Figure Eight will be performed on leash; the handler may go around either steward first. After the judge asks, "Are you ready?" and gives the order, "Forward," the handler and dog will walk briskly around and between the two stewards twice. There will be no about turn, fast or slow, but the judge must order at least one halt during this exercise and another halt at the end. After each halt, it is permissible for the handler to give a command or signal to heel before moving forward again.

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

**Section 8. Figure Eight, Scoring.** Scoring is the same as the Heel on Leash exercise.

**Section 9. Sit For Exam.** The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog sits in position before and during the examination without displaying resentment. Orders are: "Sit your dog and leave when you are ready," "Back to your dog" and "Exercise finished."

This exercise is to be performed with the dog on a 6 foot leash.

On the judge's order, the handler will command the dog to sit. The handler will then stand with the dog sitting in the heel position, give the command and/or signal to stay, walk straight forward about 6 feet to the end of the leash, turn and face the dog.

The judge will approach the dog from the front. Using the fingers

and palm of one hand, the judge will touch only the dog's head. On the order "Back to your dog," the handler will walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position. The handler may gather the leash at any time while returning to the dog. The dog must remain sitting until the judge has said, "Exercise finished."

**Section 10. Sit For Exam, Scoring.** The scoring of this exercise will not start until the handler has given the command and/or signal to stay, except for such things as rough treatment by the handler or active resistance by the dog to sit. Either of these will be penalized substantially. A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it stands, lies down, or moves away from the place where it was left either before or during the examination, or growls, snaps, or displays resentment. Minor deductions will be made for any tightening of the leash during the exercise. Substantial deductions will be made for an extra command to the dog after the handler has given the command and/or signal to stay and left the heel position.

Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves  
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its feet at any time or stands or moves away after the examination has been completed. Minor or substantial deductions, even to the point of a non-qualifying (NQ) score, will be made for shyness.

**Section 11. Sit Stay – Handler Walk Around the Ring.** The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position. Orders for this exercise are: "Sit your dog," "Leave your dog," and "Exercise finished."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position. Prior to starting the exercise, the judge will ask if the handler is ready. The leash remains attached to the dog's collar and will be dropped/placed on the ground between the dog and the handler. When the judge gives the order "Sit your dog," the handler will command and/or signal the dog to sit, if they are not already sitting. The judge will order "Leave your dog," and the handler will give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately proceed to walk around the inside perimeter of the ring in a direction as indicated by the judge. Upon completing a full perimeter walk around the ring, the handler will approach the dog from

the front, and proceed to walk around and in back of the dog to the heel position. Once the handler has returned to heel position, the judge will give the order "Exercise finished."

**Section 12. Sit Stay, Scoring.** A non-qualifying score (NQ) is required for the dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, not remaining in the sit position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining.

A substantial deduction will be made for a dog that moves even a short distance from where it was left, that barks or whines only once or twice, or that changes position after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge has given the order, "Exercise finished." Minor or substantial deductions, even to the point of a non-qualifying (NQ) score, will be made for any additional commands to the dog after the handler has commanded and/or signaled the dog to stay.

Scoring of the exercises will not start until after the judge has ordered the handler to leave their dog, except for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or resistance by a dog to its handler's attempts to make it sit. These will be penalized substantially; in extreme cases, the dog may be excused.

The judge will not give the "Exercise finished" order until the handler has returned to heel position.

**Section 13. Recall.** The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until called by the handler, and that the dog responds promptly.

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Orders are: "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," and "Exercise finished."

The leash is removed for this exercise and kept by the handler.

On order from the judge, the handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will then walk forward, approximately 25 feet, to a location as directed by the judge and turn to face the dog. On the judge's order or signal, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly, at a brisk trot or gallop, and sit in front near the handler. The dog must be close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot.

(No finish will be required of the dog by the handler.)

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

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

**Section 14. Recall, Scoring.** A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it is given an additional command and/or signal to stay, if more than two commands and/or signals are required for the dog to come, if it fails to come, if it moves from the place it was left before being called and/or signaled to come, or if it does not come close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot.

Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a handler's extra command or signal to come or to sit, or if the dog fails to come at a brisk trot or gallop, or fails to sit.

Minor deductions will be made for slow or poor sits.