

**Revisions to the
Rally Regulations**

Effective Immediately

**This insert is issued as a supplement to the
Rally Regulations amended to
April 8, 2008**

Chapter 2, Section 11. Rally Ribbons.

Each prize ribbon or rosette in all regular classes will be at least 2 inches wide and a minimum of 8 inches long, and will bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of the AKC, the words "Rally Trial," the name of the placement, and the name of the trial-giving club. The date of the trial and the name of the city or town where the trial is held must appear on the face, back tab or on a label attached to the specific ribbon. Qualifying ribbons or rosettes and ribbons or rosettes in all non-regular classes will be at least 2 inches wide and a minimum of 8 inches long, and will bear on the face a facsimile of the seal of the AKC, the words "Rally Trial," the name of the placement and the name of the trial-giving club. The date of the trial and the name of the city or town where the trial is held may be on the face of the ribbons.

Yellow Insert
Issued: May 18, 2009
RO2999 (02/09)

Revisions to the Obedience Regulations

Effective January 1, 2010

This insert is issued as a supplement to the
Obedience Regulations amended
January 1, 2009.

Chapter 1 – General Regulations

Section 1. Obedience Clubs. An obedience club that meets all the requirements of the American Kennel Club® and wishes to hold an obedience trial must apply on the form the AKC provides for permission to hold such a trial. The trial may be held either in conjunction with a dog show, agility trial or as a separate event. A club that is not a member of the AKC must pay a license fee in order to hold a trial. The AKC Board of Directors determines this fee. If the trial is not held at the approved time and place, the license fee will be returned.

A club may hold two all-breed obedience trials concurrently at the same site on the same day, or two all-breed obedience clubs may hold their obedience trials one following another, if the events are held on the same site on the same day. No judge will be assigned to judge for more than eight hours in one day, including any breed judging assignment when the obedience trial is held in conjunction with a dog show.

Section 16a. Move-ups.

- The club will clearly state in its premium list whether move-ups will or will not be allowed.
- After a dog earns a title, it may be moved up to the next class in a future trial even though the closing date for the trial has passed, provided the club offers move-ups.
- Move-ups may be approved, provided the next level class (e.g. Novice to Open) and judge is available and the class has not reached its limit.
- A move-up may be requested if, according to the owner's records, the dog has completed the requirements for the title after the closing date of the trial in which the advanced entry is to be made.
- The request for a move-up must be in writing and presented to the superintendent or trial secretary at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each trial.
- Movement between an "A" and "B" class at the same level is not considered a move-up.

Section 16b. Entry of Ineligible Dog. A dog which has been entered in an "A" class for which it is not eligible to be entered in due to class restrictions on the dog or handler may be moved to the "B" class at the same level under the following conditions:

- The request for the move must be in writing and presented to the superintendent or trial secretary at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each trial.
- The request must state the reason and justification for the move from an "A" class to the "B" class within the level.

Chapter 14 – Non-regular Classes

Section 5. Brace Class. The Brace class will be for two dogs of the same breed or two dogs listed with AKC Canine Partners of similar height at the withers that are eligible under these regulations and capable of performing the Novice exercises. The dogs need not be owned by the same person but will be handled by one handler. 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. A separate official entry form will be completed in full for each dog entered. Exercises, performances and judging will be as in the Novice class. The brace should work in unison at all times. Either or both dogs in a brace may be entered in another class or classes.

Section 11. Obedience Advanced Teamwork. The Obedience Advanced Teamwork class is for dogs that are eligible under these *Regulations*. All exercises are to be performed off leash. Heeling is a required exercise and should be designed to be challenging. In addition to heeling, the judge will choose any four of the remaining seven optional exercises listed below to be used for the entire class. The judge will determine the order in which all of the exercises will be performed. The order should be posted approximately 45 minutes prior to the start of the class. The execution and performance requirements of each exercise are to be standardized for the entire class.

Pylons/cones will be provided by the club and may be of any size and may remain in the ring during judging. Signs for the distance control exercise will be provided by the club and should be no smaller than 8 x 10 inches. Performance and judging will be according to the *Obedience Regulations* as they pertain to the Novice, Open and Utility classes unless otherwise stated.

1.	Heeling Exercise	40 points
2.	Option Exercise #1	40 points
3.	Option Exercise #2	40 points
4.	Option Exercise #3	40 points
5.	Option Exercise #4	40 points
	Maximum Total Score	200 points

Heeling (Required Exercise). The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team.

The orders may be given in any sequence and may be repeated. All turns and maneuvers may be performed at the normal or slow pace as called by the judge. The judge may use any combination of turns and paces and will standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in the class. The minimum acceptable heeling orders will be those listed under the Novice Heel on Leash.

Scoring- All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Heel on Leash exercise will apply.

Suggested judging rate of 5 dogs per hour.

OPTIONAL EXERCISES

Object Pickup and Placement. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog goes directly to the object, picks it up without hesitation, stops on command, places the object as directed and returns as in the Novice Recall.

Orders for this exercise are “Throw it,” “Send your dog,” “Right” or “Left” and “Finish.” If the object has any sort of squeaker or noise mechanism, it must be removed or disabled.

Two pylons will be placed midway along the length of the ring and about 18 to 20 feet apart. The handler will stand with their 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. The judge will require the object to be thrown again before the dog is sent if it is thrown less than 30 feet or too close to one of the pylons. After the object is thrown at least 30 feet, the judge will order the handler, “Send your dog.” The dog will go directly to the object at a brisk trot or gallop and pick it up.

Immediately after the pickup, the handler will command the dog to sit and the judge will designate at which of the two pylons the object will be placed. The handler may use a command and/or signal to direct the dog to the correct pylon. The handler may stop and redirect the dog if needed. Once the

dog reaches the pylon the handler will give a release command. The dog must leave the object within a 2 foot distance measured from the base of pylon. The judge may mark this acceptable zone with chalk or tape. After the dog places the object, the handler will command or signal the dog to come. The handler remains in place. The dog will return directly to the handler, execute a front, and finish as in the Novice Recall.

Scoring- Failure to place the object at the designated cone will result in all points being deducted for the exercise. A substantial deduction will be made for a dog that does not sit, is given a second command to sit or anticipates the handler's command to sit. A substantial deduction will be made for each redirect to the pylon or additional commands to leave the dumbbell at the pylon. All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall and Retrieve on Flat will apply.

Scent Work. The principal feature of this exercise is the selection of the handler's article from among a variety of articles by scent alone and the prompt delivery of the 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."

The handler will provide ten objects appropriately sized for the dog. These objects may be predominantly made of any material (plastic, metal, leather, rubber, wood, cloth, etc.). No more than four objects may be made of the same predominant material. If any of the objects are toys, the squeakers must be removed or disabled. An object may not be identical to another object. Standard dumbbells or scent articles may not be used.

The judge will select which article the handler will scent for the dog to find and retrieve. The remaining unscented objects will be placed about 30 feet from the handler. They may be arranged in any manner (circle, line, lines, etc.) and will be set approximately 6 inches apart.

The dog performs the exercise in the same manner as Scent Discrimination.

Scoring- All appropriate penalties for the Scent Discrimination exercise will apply.

Seek Back. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog will seek out, find, and retrieve a lost glove. The glove must be a dark color that will not be easily seen when dropped (for example, dark green, brown, black etc.), size appropriate for the dog and must be approved by the judge.

The orders for this exercise are "Forward," any other orders that may be given during the Novice Heel Free exercise, "Drop it," "Send your dog," "Take it," and "Finish."

The handler will carry a dark glove in their right hand while heeling and will drop it unobtrusively on the judge's order. The "Drop It" order will be given while the team is in motion. The judge will continue to give further heeling orders to the team after the "Drop it" order.

When the team is at least 30 feet from the glove, the judge will order the team to halt and order the handler to send the dog for the glove. The team will not be halted such that the glove is behind the handler's back. It is not necessary that the dog be able to see the glove from where he is sent. The handler will command the dog to retrieve the glove. The handler will remain in place while the dog searches for the glove. The dog finds the glove and completes the exercise as in the Retrieve on Flat.

Scoring- There shall be no penalty for a dog that takes time to find the glove or that searches the entire ring, provided the dog works continuously. Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a handler who does not drop the glove promptly when ordered to do so. In all other respects, this exercise will be scored as in the Novice Heel Free and Retrieve on Flat exercises.

Moving Stand, Sit or Down. The principal features of the exercise are the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team while heeling, the dog's correct response to the stand, sit or down command and that the dog stays until called to resume heeling. The orders for this exercise are "Forward," "Stand," "Sit" or "Down your dog," "Call dog to Heel," "Halt," and any of the turns in the heeling exercise may be used.

The judge will choose the moving exercise of the day prior to start of the class. The same moving exercise will be used for each team. Beginning at one end of the ring, as directed by the judge, the team will begin to heel forward on the judge's order. While heeling the judge will give the order to either "Stand," "Sit," or "Down your dog." The handler may use a command or signal and will continue heeling with his back to the dog for approximately 15-20 feet as directed by the judge. The

Revisions to the Rally Regulations

Effective April 1, 2010

This insert is issued as a supplement to the Rally Regulations amended April 8, 2008.

Chapter 1 – General Regulations

Section 1. Application to Hold a Rally Trial. Clubs meeting the requirements of AKC that wish to hold a rally trial must submit the form provided by AKC with the appropriate application fee. A rally trial is a separate event, with a separate event number, and the rally trial application with appropriate fee must be submitted at least 24 weeks before the closing date for entries to the event.

In order for a club to receive AKC approval to hold a rally trial, the club must hold an obedience trial with all regular obedience classes offered in conjunction with the rally trial. If the obedience trial is to be limited, the rally trial must also be limited to not exceed the number of hours as the limited obedience trial. The rally trial must have the same format as the obedience trial, i.e. All-Breed, Group or Breed Specialty. Any club eligible to hold all-breed rally trials may open their trial to dogs listed with AKC Canine Partners at their option.
One rally trial will be approved for each obedience trial.

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judge may call a halt or a single turn followed by a halt. The judge will then order the handler to call the dog to heel. The handler may command or signal the dog to heel position.

Scoring - All appropriate penalties of the Novice Heel on Leash, Novice Recall and Moving Stand exercises will apply.

Base Ball Glove Retrieve. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay until called, the dog's prompt response to the handler's command or signal to drop, the dog's remaining in the down position until directed to retrieve, the dog goes directly to the designated glove and retrieves it promptly.

Orders will be "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," "One," "Two," or "Three," "Take it," and "Finish."

First, second and third base, pitchers mound and home plate will be positions designated by the judge. The gloves will be numbered "One," "Two," or "Three" reading from left to right.

In this exercise the handler will provide three predominantly white gloves as in the Directed Retrieve. The gloves must be approved by the judge. The handler and dog will set up about 2-3 feet in front of second base. The steward will drop the gloves at first, second and third base. Handler leaves dog and walks to the other end of the ring at home plate. On order from the judge, the handler calls the dog. While the dog is coming the handler will down the dog half way at the pitchers mound. Once the dog has dropped, the judge will order "One," "Two" or "Three" at which time the handler will direct the dog, using command and or signal to the glove. The dog completes the exercise as in the Directed Retrieve.

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

Scoring- All appropriate penalties of the Novice Recall, Drop on Recall, and Directed Retrieve will apply.

Distance Control. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog remain in the place and the position it was left in until commanded otherwise, the dog's correct response to the commands and or signals to stand, sit, and down, as directed and remain in the last position until the handler returns to heel position.

Orders for this exercise are "Leave your dog," and "Back to your dog." The judge must use signals for directing the handler to signal the dog to stand, sit, and down their dog.

Prior to the start of the class, the judge will post the starting position required of the dogs, either a stand, sit or down, and the order in which the dogs will be required to rotate through each position. The dog is to change position a total of six times and each order is to be done twice in whatever order the judge chooses. A boundary area may be pre-marked with chalk or tape either in front or in back of the dog to allow any forward movement of the dog to be easily evaluated throughout the exercise.

On order from the judge, the handler may give a command and/or signal for the dog to stay in the starting position. The handler will walk to the other end of the ring at least 40 feet away from the dog. On the judge's signal the handler will give a command and/or signal for each of the required position changes. If both command and signal are used, they must be used simultaneously.

Once the handler and dog complete the rotation of position changes the judge will give the order "Back to your dog" and the handler will return to heel position.

Scoring - All appropriate penalties for the Signal Exercise will apply.

Send Away. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog go away from the handler to the designated single pylon, remain in the stand, sit or down position as directed until sent to the second location, and there remain in the stand, sit or down position inside the square area until directed to heel position and continue heeling with its handler.

Orders for this exercise will be, "Send your dog," "Reset your dog," and "Forward" followed by a minimum of at least two turns as allowed in the heeling exercise, followed by "Call your dog to heel," and "Halt."

Prior to the start of the class, the judge will post the position the dog will be required to do for each send away, stand, sit or down and remain in until directed otherwise. The judge may choose to use the same position for each send away or different positions. Additionally the heeling portion of this exercise will be posted, told or shown prior to the start of the class.

Notes

A single pylon will be set in either corner at the far end of the ring approximately 3 feet from the ring barriers. In the opposite corner at the far end of the ring a 4' x 4' square area will be marked using either chalk or tape.

The handler and dog will set up facing the single pylon, on the same side but at the opposite end of the ring.

On order from the judge to "Send your dog," the handler will send the dog to the single pylon and command and/or signal the dog to stand, sit, or down. The dog may be anywhere within a 3-foot radius of the pylon, and must stand, sit or down as commanded and remain until the second send away.

On order from the judge to "Resend your dog," the handler will command and/or signal the dog to the 4' x 4' square area, then command/and or signal the dog to stand, sit, or down inside this square area until called to heel.

The judge will then call heeling orders for the handler and anytime after the handler executes a minimum of two turns the judge will order the handler, while in motion, to "Call your dog to heel." The dog should move to heel position briskly. Handler and dog continue heeling together as ordered until the judge orders "Halt."

Appendix A

AKITAS
ARGENTINE DOGOS
BASSET HOUNDS
BERGAMASCOS
BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOGS
BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIERS
BLOODHOUNDS
BOLOGNESE
BORZOI
BULLDOGS
BULLMASTIFFS
CARDIGAN WELSH CORGIS
CAUCASIAN MOUNTAIN DOGS
CHINESE SHAR-PEI
CHOW CHOWS
CLUMBER SPANIELS
DACHSHUNDS
DOGUE DE BORDEAUX
ESTRELA MOUNTAIN DOGS
FRENCH BULLDOGS
GRAND BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉENS
GREAT DANES
GREAT PYRENEES
GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOGS
IRISH WOLFHOOUNDS
KISHU KENS
KOOIKERHONDJES
KUVASZOK
LAGOTTO ROMAGNOLI
LEONBERGERS
MASTIFFS
NEAPOLITAN MASTIFFS
NEWFOUNDLANDS
OTTERHOUNDS
PETIT BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉENS
PORTUGUESE PODENGOS
PUGS
SAINT BERNARDS
SCOTTISH TERRIERS
SKYE TERRIERS
SUSSEX SPANIELS
SWEDISH VALLHUNDS
THAI RIDGEBACKS

Notes

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, attia boy/girl, are some examples of praise that would be allowed.)

Section 15. Recall Scoring. A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NO) 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 near the handler.

Minor deductions will be made for slow or poor sits.

Suggested judging rate of 10 dogs per hour.

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Revisions to the Obedience Regulations

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Chapter 1 – General Regulations

Section 2. Dog Show and Specialty Clubs. A dog show club, a specialty club or an agility club may be granted permission to hold a licensed or member obedience trial if, in the opinion of the AKC Board of Directors, it is qualified to do so.

Specialty and group clubs have three options to hold an obedience trial.

- (1) These clubs may hold a trial exclusively for their own breed(s).
- (2) If entries are limited, these clubs may accept entries of dogs of their own breed(s) first then accept entries from all breeds until the entry limit specified in the premium list is reached.
- (3) These clubs may hold their specialty or group obedience trial followed by an all-breed or group obedience trial, so long as the scheduled judging program for both events does not exceed eight hours of judging time.

If option (2) is selected, awards as described in these regulations, Chapter 1, Sections 19, 20, 21, and 22 will be offered for the specialty breed(s). In addition, awards as described in these regulations, Chapter 1, Sections 19, 20, 21, and 22 will be offered for the all-breed event.

If option (3) is selected, the specialty obedience and all-breed or group obedience trials will be approved and held as two separate events.
Any club eligible to hold all-breed obedience trials may open their trial to dogs listed with AKC Canine Partners at their option.

Section 3. Entries. To be acceptable, an entry must:

- Be submitted with the required entry fee
- Be on an official AKC entry form
- Be signed by the owner or their duly authorized agent

Include all of the following information:

- Name or show/trial-giving club
- Date of show/trial
- Breed
- Variety, if any
- Sex
- Name of class(es) entered
- Full registered name of dog
- Name of owner(s)/co-owner(s)
- Address of owner

Include one of the following:

- AKC registration number
- AKC litter number
- PAL/ILP number
- AKC Canine Partners listing number
- Foreign registration number and country of registration for an unregistered imported dog

Section 10. 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 his 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 11. 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 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 12. 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,” the handler will give a command and/or signal to stay and will 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, 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 13. 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 nonqualifying (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 14. 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.

Orders are, “Leave your dog,” “Call your dog,” and “Exercise finished.” The leash is removed for this exercise and kept by the handler.

- Identification number issued by AKC
- Include the following if known:
- Date of birth
 - Place of birth Name of breeder(s)
 - Name of sire
 - Name of dam
 - Jump height

Note: A club may arrange entries according to jump height order in all classes in which jumps are used. If a club should choose this option, it will be stated in the premium list what jump height will begin the class and if the order will be ascending or descending. Handlers with multiple entries in the same class and with the same jump height should be accommodated.

Section 12. Dogs Eligible to Compete. As used in these regulations, the word “dog” refers to either sex but only to dogs that are eligible for entry in AKC events. Dogs with a PAL (Purebred Alternative Listing), ILP (Indefinite Listing Privilege), or Canine Partners number must be spayed or neutered in order to compete.

Section 13. Unregistered Dogs. Chapter 11, Section 1, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* will apply to entries in licensed or member obedience trials. However, dogs registered with an AKC Limited Registration number and dogs with a PAL (Purebred Alternative Listing) or ILP (Indefinite Listing Privilege) number and dogs listed with AKC Canine Partners may be entered in these events. The AKC Limited Registration number, PAL or ILP number, or AKC Canine Partners listing number must be shown on the entry form. A dog approved for entry in the Miscellaneous Class at dog shows and a dog of a Foundation Stock Service recorded breed that meets the eligibility requirements for competition are eligible to compete in obedience trials and/or tracking tests provided their AKC identification number appears on the entry form.

Section 22. Highest Scoring Dog in the Regular Classes and the Dog With the Highest Combined Score in Open B and Utility. The dog receiving the highest qualifying score in the regular classes will be awarded the ribbons and any prizes offered for these placements after the announcement of final scores of the last regular class to be judged. The dog receiving the highest combined score in Open B and Utility may be awarded the ribbon and any prizes offered for this placement after Open B and Utility classes have been judged and after the announcement of those final scores. The superintendent or show or trial secretary will mark the catalog to identify the dogs receiving these awards.

In the case of a tie between dogs eligible for either of the above awards, each dog will be tested again, individually, by performing the entire Novice Heel Free exercise. The judge for a run-off will be designated by the Event Committee from among the judges of the obedience trial. When a run-off has been completed, the judge will record the results on a special sheet that identifies the dogs taking part in the run-off by catalog number, class and breed. When the judge has marked and signed the sheet, it will be turned over to the superintendent or show or trial secretary who will mark the catalog accordingly and forward the sheet to the AKC as part of the records of the trial. If a club chooses to allow mixed breeds to enter their trial, such dogs are eligible for Highest Scoring Dog in the Regular Classes and Highest Combined Score in Open B and Utility. Scores from the optional titling and the non-regular obedience classes are not eligible for Highest Scoring Dog in the Regular Classes.

Chapter 12 – National Obedience Champion

Section 1. Dogs that May Compete. A National Obedience Championship will be awarded annually to the dog that wins the National Obedience Invitational. The winner of the event shall be entitled to be designated National Obedience Champion of _____(year). To be invited to participate, each dog must be ranked in the top 25 dogs by number of OTCH points or ranked in the top three of its breed by OTCH points; dogs listed with AKC Canine Partners will be considered one single breed. If the total number of dogs accepting the invitation to be present at the event is less than 125 dogs, invitations shall be extended to a reserve list selected by ratio of dogs qualified by OTCH points in that breed to the number of dogs entered in that breed.

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 dog certificate from the AKC.

Section 6. 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” 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 7. 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 dogs’ pace, that dog must receive a nonqualifying (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 8. Figure 8. 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 called by the judge and will be “Forward,” “Halt,” and “Exercise Finished.”

For the Figure Eight, the handler will stand and the dog will sit in heel position facing the judge, midway between the two 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 9. Figure 8 Scoring. Scoring is the same as the Heel on Leash exercise.

The National Obedience Invitational competition shall comprise a varied combination of Open and Utility exercises performed as described in these regulations. The winner of the event shall be entitled to be designated National Obedience Champion NOC of _____ (year) and the AKC will permit the use of the letters NOC preceding the name of each dog that meets the requirements. Breeds of dogs recognized by AKC from foreign countries whose registries are accepted by AKC may be invited to compete in the National Obedience Invitational. Dogs listed with AKC Canine Partners will be eligible for invitation to the National Obedience Invitational, effective 2011.

Section 2. AKC Regional Competitions. The American Kennel Club will identify yearly the events/shows to be regional qualifying events for the next year. Events will be selected based on criteria established by the AKC Companion Events Department. Regions will be based on divisions currently established for conformation by the American Kennel Club. The only exception will be the division containing Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico, which will be combined as one division, with separate qualification criteria to be set. * For all divisions, the top four dogs based on the qualification criteria as established by the Companion Events Department will be invited to attend the AKC National Obedience Invitational.

The qualification time period for regional competitors will be from July 1 to June 30 for qualification to attend the National Obedience Invitational (NOI) following the June 30 cut-off date.

For events to be identified as AKC Regional Obedience competitions:

1. The selected division event(s) must have obedience trials over three consecutive days. Only three consecutive obedience trials will be recognized as the regional trial. (Each division will only have one regional competition per year.)
 2. Previous shows for trials at the events must have a minimum of 80 plus entries. This may vary by region.
 3. If there are no events that meet the given requirements in a region, the Events Selection Committee can select a smaller show or allow another region to have two events.
- *Criteria for Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico may vary.

To qualify, dogs must:

- Have a UD title
- Compete in both Open B and Utility B in all three of the shows identified as an AKC regional competition
- Have a cumulative score obtained from the dog's participation in Open and Utility at the regional competition
- Be ranked from highest to lowest based on their cumulative score with 1,200 points being a perfect score
- Qualify by cumulative score as one of the top four at one regional competition for an invitation to the National Obedience Invitational

Should a dog qualify for the NOI in more than one regional event, the next highest scoring dog will qualify.

Dogs listed with AKC Canine Partners will be eligible for invitation to the National Obedience Invitational, effective 2011.

Chapter 13 – Versatile Companion Dog

Section 1. Versatile Companion Dog Title. The AKC will issue a Versatile Companion Dog certificate and will permit the use of the letters VCD following the name of each dog that completes the titles as follows:

Versatile Companion Dog 1 (VCD1) – CD, NA, NAJ, TD or CD, NAP, JNP, TD

Versatile Companion Dog 2 (VCD2) – CDX, OA, OAJ, TD or CDX, OAP, OJP, TD

Versatile Companion Dog 3 (VCD3) – UD, AX, AXI, TDX or UD, AXP, AJP, TDX

Versatile Companion Dog 4 (VCD4) – UDX, MX, MXI, VST or UDX, MXP, MJP, VST

Dogs listed with AKC Canine Partners are not eligible for the Versatile Companion Dog titles.

Revisions to the Obedience Judges' Guidelines

Effective April 1, 2010

This insert is issued as a supplement to the Obedience Regulations and Obedience Judges' Guidelines amended January 1, 2009.

Chapter 1 – The Obedience Judge

Responsibility to the Sport. Approval to judge carries with it the full endorsement of the AKC. Whether judging at a licensed trial or sanctioned match or engaging in any dog-related activity, judges must be cognizant of their responsibility to the sport.

Revisions to the Obedience Regulations

Effective July 1, 2010

This insert is issued as a supplement to the Obedience Regulations amended January 1, 2009.

Chapter 6 – Beginner Novice Optional Titling Class

Section 1. Beginner Novice A Class. The Beginner Novice A class shall be for dogs that have not won the BN title. Judges for this class must be approved to judge novice or higher classes. 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.

Section 2. 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.

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 8	40 points
3. Sit for Exam	40 points
4. Sit Stay	40 points
5. Recall	40 points
Maximum Total Score	200 points