Changes to 2016 Obedience Rules

Obedience Rules

OB.15.07 Change to Chapter 11 Honor Dog Clarification

11 Honorary Titles
The title of Honor Dog will be accorded to any ASCA registered Australian Shepherd who receives a score of 195 or better in the first three (3) attempts toward any obedience title. Each team will be acknowledged for their achievement with their name and a picture in the Aussie Times.

To receive an Honor Dog title, the owner must notify the ASCA Business Office in writing listing dog’s name, dog’s registration number and information from each of the three obedience trials. This should include club, date, location, judge and score for each trial. The Business Office will send the owner an Honor Dog Certificate.

To be acknowledged in the Aussie Times, the owner must send a photo with relevant information on the Honor Dog title to the editor.

OB.15.08 Change to 1.13 Bitches in Season

1.13 Disturbances
Bitches in season may compete only at the Nationals Obedience Trial and Obedience Finals. They are to compete last after all other judging is finished with the exception of run-offs each day, in a ring not to be used again for Obedience. This includes sits and downs, which shall be held separately. Multiple bitches in season may take part in group sits and downs together. A bitch in season could be competing back to back in both rings in Open and Utility. Bitches in season must be crated (not placed in an exercise pen) at least 50' away from the obedience rings prior to and during the competition, except while competing. Bitches in season must wear pants.

OB.15.09 Clarification and Reorganization of Group Stays

1.2.2 Group Exercises
Group Exercises may be held either before or after the Individual Exercises. If the Premium fails to state how Group Exercises will be held, Group Exercises will follow the Individual Exercises pursuant to the group quantity and spacing set forth below.

If the club elects to hold the Group Exercises before the Individual Exercises, it must state this preference in the Premium. When Group Exercises are to be held before the Individual Exercises, the Premium should clarify if they are to be held before all Individual Exercises, or before open and novice, or before each class division individually. If the Premium fails to state when they will be held if scheduled prior to the Individual Exercises, then Group Exercises shall be held prior to all Individual Exercises (including Utility).

3.12 Group Exercises
The principal feature of the group exercises is that the dog remain in the position required. Orders are: “Sit your dogs” or “Down your dogs,” “Leave your dogs,” and “Back to your dogs.” Groups in the ring for Group Exercises must include no more than ten (10) dogs spaced a minimum of 4’ apart and positioned 4’ off any adjacent ring gates. If there are more than 10 dogs competing, the judge will divide the class into approximately equal sections. At the discretion of the judge, groups for Novice
A and B and for Open A and B can be combined or separated. However, when Open B orders III and V are used, Open B groups cannot be combined with other classes. The dogs will be lined up in catalog order along one side of the ring. Each handler will remove the leash and place the leash and their armband, weighted as necessary, behind their dog. The judge should stand so that he can see all the dogs and all the handlers without having to turn around.

A dog may earn a qualifying score even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises. The person who handles the dog in the individual exercises must also handle that dog in the Long Sit and Long Down unless the person handled more than one dog in the class and the class will only have one group of stays. If this occurs, the owner must have additional handlers standing by to handle the additional dog(s) during the Group Exercises.

When the last Group Exercise has been completed and the judge has said, “Exercise Finished,” handlers should leash their dogs and keep them under control while exiting the ring.

LONG SIT: Novice dogs are required to sit for one minute. The dogs must be in heel position either standing or sitting beside their handler. The judge will ask if everyone is ready. Upon command from the judge to “Sit Your Dogs,” the handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to sit. On the command, “Leave your dogs,” handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to stay, walk directly across the ring, and then turn and face their dogs. On the command, “Back to your dogs,” handlers will walk back to and around their own dogs counterclockwise to heel position. The judge shall not give the order "Exercise Finished" until the handlers have returned to the heel position. Dogs will remain in position until the judge commands, “Exercise Finished.” Time begins when the judge commands, “Leave your dogs.” After one minute, timing ends, at which time the judge will command, “Back to your dogs.” Dogs moving from the place where they were left in the first group exercise shall be excused from the remaining group exercise.

LONG DOWN: This exercise is performed exactly like the long sit with these exceptions. Novice dogs are required to down for three minutes. The judge will order, “Down your dogs,” instead of “Sit your dogs.” The dogs must lie down instead of sit. The judge will order, “Down your dogs,” instead of “Sit your dogs.” The dogs must lie down instead of sit. Dogs must be facing directly across the ring.

3.13 Group Exercises, Scoring

When dogs have been released from their sit and down position after the judge says, “Exercise Finished,” Substantial or minor deductions may be made for misbehavior on overly exuberant releases. Any dog that interferes with another dog may be excused from the class.

4.7 Group Exercises (Long Sit and Long Down) – FOR ONLY CDX

The Group Exercises, Long Sit (30 Points) and Long Down (30 Points), shall be done only by those entered in the Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) class.

The Open Long Sit and Long Down are performed and scored exactly like the Novice Group Exercises (Sections 3.12 and 3.13) with these exceptions. Open dogs are required to sit for three minutes and to down for five minutes. When the judge commands, “Leave your dogs,” 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. After the judge has commanded or signaled to the steward for the handlers to return, the handlers will follow the steward back into the ring in reverse order, and line up to face their dogs at the opposite side of the ring, before the judge commands, “Back to your dogs.” The judge shall stand in such a position that he can see all the handlers leaving and returning to the ring, as well as all of the dogs, without having to turn around.

OB.15.12 Clarify Chapter 7 Obedience Trial Champion

7.1 Introduction and General Information
There are two obedience trial champion titles: OTCH (dogs qualify via the CDX Open B class and the Utility B class) and OTCH-O (dogs qualify via the ODX Open B class and the Utility B class). OTCH points and OTCH-O points cannot be earned at the same trial. Handlers shall indicate on the obedience entry form for each trial whether they choose Utility class points to accrue towards the OTCH or the OTCH-O. The Business Office will track the score accrual for each eligible dog. ...

7.2 Obedience Trial Champion OTCH Title
A total of one hundred (100) points must be earned. Points can only be accumulated after the dog has earned both the CDX and UD titles from ASCA. Points cannot be earned during the same trial in which the dog completes the UD title.

OB.15.13 Change to 1.20 Dogs That Must Compete

1.20 Excusals and Disqualifications
Any dog entered and present at a sanctioned obedience trial or specialty is expected to compete in all classes in which it is entered. Dogs that have been disqualified or excused by the judge or show/obedience trial committee will be removed from further competition. Dogs that have been excused by the official veterinarian to protect the health of the dog and/or the health of other dogs at the trial will be removed from further competition. The excuse by the official veterinarian must be in writing, approved by the show or obedience trial committee, and submitted to ASCA with the show reports from the trial.

OB.15.14 Change to 11.8 Eligibility of (Finals) Entrants

11.8 Eligibility of Entrants
...
- If a dog is ranked in Super Dog, that dog may only show in the Super Dog category and will not be listed for either Open or Utility. This will allow more dogs to compete in the Finals.
...
- If a dog that is not ranked in Super Dog earns three qualifying scores in Utility, that dog may only show in Utility and will not be listed for Open finals.
...

OB.16.01 Graduate Novice Optional Titling Class

Chapter 9 Graduate Novice Optional Titling Class

9.1 Graduate Novice Class
The Graduate Novice Class is an optional titling class that clubs may choose to offer at obedience trials. The Graduate Novice Class shall be for dogs not less than six (6) months of age. Dogs in this class may also be entered at the same trial in any other classes for which they are eligible as defined in these regulations. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person. A person may handle more than one (1) dog in this class, but each dog must have a separate handler for the Group exercise when judged in the same group.

A qualifying score in an Optional Titling class shall be the same as that in a Regular class as defined in these regulations by Chapter 1 Section 10: Qualifying Score. Ribbons and prizes for Optional Titling classes shall be the same as those in Regular classes as defined in these regulations by Chapter 1 Section 14: Obedience Ribbons and Chapter 1 Section 15: Ribbons and Prizes.
Scores and titles from Optional Titling classes shall not be applicable to High in Trial awards, Merit standings, Finals standings or Hall of Fame determinations.

9.2 Graduate Novice Title
ASCA will issue a Graduate Novice (GN) certificate to a dog with an ASCA registration, LEP number or an ASCA tracking number, and will permit the use of GN after its name, when it has received three (3) qualifying scores awarded by at least two (2) judges.

9.3 Graduate Novice Exercises and Scores
The exercises and maximum scores in the Graduate Novice class:
- Heel Free and Figure Eight: 40 points
- Drop on Recall: 40 points
- Retrieve on Flat: 30 points
- Dumbbell Recall over High Jump: 30 points
- Recall over Broad Jump: 30 points
- Group Exercise: 30 points
- Maximum Total Score: 200 points

9.4 Heel Free and Figure Eight, Performance and Scoring
This exercise shall be executed in the same manner as the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise, except that the dog is off-leash. Orders and scoring are the same as in the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight.

9.5 Drop on Recall, Performance and Scoring
This exercise shall be executed in the same manner as the Open Drop on Recall, except that the handler may give a command and/or signal to drop.

9.6 Retrieve on the Flat, Performance and Scoring
This exercise shall be executed in the same manner as the Open Retrieve on the Flat, except for the following two differences. The minimum distance the handler must throw the dumbbell will be ten (10) feet. To send the dog the handler may give a command and/or signal.

9.7 Dumbbell Recall Over High Jump
The principal features of this exercise are that the dog promptly takes the dumbbell from the handler, stays until directed to jump, and promptly comes to the handler over the jump holding the dumbbell. Orders are “Give your dog the dumbbell,” “Leave your dog,” “Call your dog,” “Take it,” and “Finish.” The handler shall stand with his dog sitting in heel position at least eight (8) feet, or any reasonable distance beyond eight (8) feet, from the jump. On order, “Give your dog the dumbbell,” the handler shall give the dog the dumbbell to hold. On order, “Leave your dog,” the handler will command and/or signal for the dog to stay in the sit position while the handler walks at least (8) feet beyond the other side of the jump and then turns and directly faces dog as in the Novice Recall. On the judge’s order, the handler will command or signal the dog to jump. The dog must clear the high jump and come sit in front of the handler to deliver the dumbbell. The high jump structure shall be the same as defined in the Open rules. Jump heights shall be the same as defined in the Open rules.

9.8 Dumbbell Recall Over High Jump, Scoring
A dog that fails to take the dumbbell on the first command must be scored non-qualifying (NQ). Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the extent, shall be made for a dog that drops, plays with or mouths the dumbbell as the handler walks away. In addition, all applicable penalties for the Novice Recall, Open Retrieve on the Flat and Open Retrieve Over the High Jump shall apply.
9.9 Recall Over Broad Jump
The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stays until directed to jump and promptly comes to the handler over the jump. Orders are “Leave dog,” “Call your dog,” and “Finish.” The handler shall stand with his dog sitting in heel position at least eight (8) feet, or any reasonable distance beyond eight (8) feet, from the jump. On order, “Leave your dog,” the handler will command and/or signal for the dog to stay in the sit position while the handler walks at least (8) feet beyond the other side of the jump and then turns and directly faces dog as in the Novice Recall. On the judge’s order, the handler will command or signal the dog to jump. The dog must clear the broad jump and come sit in front of the handler. The broad jump structure and length shall be the same as defined in the Open rules.

9.10 Recall Over Broad Jump, Scoring
All applicable penalties for the Novice Recall and Open Broad Jump shall apply.

9.11 Group Exercise (Two-Minute Long Sit or Three-Minute Long Down), Performance and Scoring
Prior to the start of judging, the judge shall make the decision as to which position, sit or down, will be assigned and post it ringside, at least thirty (30) minutes before the class is scheduled to begin. Judges should use the sit and down position with the same frequency over time. The Graduate Novice Group Exercise will be either a Sit or a Down and will be performed with handlers out of sight. It will be performed and scored as in the Open CDX Group Exercises, except that for the Sit, the judge will command or signal for the handlers to return after two minutes, and for the Down, the judge will command or signal for the handlers to return after three minutes.

OB.16.02 Companion GN Wording

10.3 Graduate Novice Class
The Graduate Novice class shall be for ASCA CD titled dogs that have not been certified by a judge to have received a Qualifying score toward a CDX title or an ODX title prior to the closing of entries. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person. A person may handle more than one (1) dog in this class, but each dog must have a separate handler for the Long Sit and Long Down exercises when judged in the same group.

The Long Sit and Long Down Group Exercises shall be the same as in the Open CDX classes. See Chapter 1, Section 2.2 for performance and scoring details.

Performances and judging shall be as in the Regular classes, except that the Figure 8 is omitted from the Heel on Leash exercise.

The exercises and maximum scores in the Graduate Novice class:

1. Heel on Leash (no Figure 8) 30
2. Stand for Examination 30
3. Open Heel Free (includes Figure 8) 40
4. Open Drop on Recall 40
5. Open Long Sit 30
6. Open Long Down 30

Maximum Total Score 200

OB.16.04 Add Optional Titling to 5 Sections

1.10 Qualifying Score
A Qualifying score shall be comprised of scores of more than fifty percent (50%) of the available points in each exercise and a final score of one hundred seventy (170) or more points, earned in a single Regular or Optional Titling class at a Specialty or Sanctioned Obedience Trial.

1.14 Obedience Ribbons

The following ribbon colors must be used at a Specialty: Regular and Optional Titling Classes:

1.15 Ribbons and Prizes

Ribbons for the four (4) official placements and all prizes offered for competition within a single Regular or Optional Titling class at Sanctioned Obedience Trials must be awarded only to dogs that earn Qualifying scores.

1.31 Submitting Records

After each ASCA sanctioned event, all Judge's Books (Optional Titling, Non-Regular and Regular classes), ASCA Official Entry Forms for all qualifiers, Gross Receipts report, including Event Membership Dues, Sanction Grant, Obedience Show Report must be sent to the ASCA Business Office, postmarked no later than fifteen (15) days after the close of the show.

2.25 Misbehavior

In any ASCA class (Regular, Optional Titling, or Non-Regular) at any trial (including Nationals and Finals), any dog that fouls the ring while in the ring for judging shall lose all allowable points for that class (Sub-Novice 160; other classes 200 points.)

OB.16.05 Standardize Secretary Language

All references to “Show Secretary” or “Trial Secretary” have been changed to “Show or Trial Secretary.”

OB.16.06 Clarify Finals Stay Language

11.5.8 Class Order and Running Order of the Entrants

... Group stays for the Novice and Open CDX classes will take place first thing in the morning with staggered times for each ring. ...

OB.16.07 Expedited Process for AKC, CKC, UKC Judges (revised)

3.1 Obedience Judges

Step B All applicants must take the ... test ...

1. AKC Judge Exception. Applicants who are certified as Provisional Utility Judges or above by the American Kennel Club (AKC) will take the ASCA Obedience Judges Test for AKC Obedience Judges, which focuses on the differences between the ASCA and AKC obedience programs. Upon passing this test, these applicants will become Provisional ASCA Obedience Judges.

2. CKC and UKC Judge Exception. Upon passing the full ASCA obedience judges test, applicants who are certified as Provisional Utility Judges or above by the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) or the United Kennel Club (UKC) will become Provisional ASCA Obedience Judges.

3.3 Provisional Status

...
AKC, CKC and UKC Judge Exception. Forty-five days after having their name published in the Aussie Times, applicants who are certified as Provisional Utility Judges or above by AKC, CKC or UKC will have their ASCA Provisional status lifted, unless the Board of Directors makes a different determination upon receiving negative input.

OB.16.08  ODX Minor Changes

4.8 Directed Open Exercises (DOE) – FOR ONLY ODX
Prior to the start of the ODX Class, the judge shall mark the spot where the cone* will be positioned during the Directed Open Exercises. Cone position: The cone shall be placed three to six feet to the left or right of the direct path from dog to handler. It may be placed midway between the dog and the handler or up to six feet forward or backward from the midline.

*The cone should be approximately 12" high and solid in color. It is recommended that it be weighted.

4.8.6 DOE 2 – Part A, Scoring
If a dog has non-qualified on DOE 1 but is in position to perform DOE 2, it should perform and be scored for DOE 2. A dog that is non-qualifying on either Part A or Part B shall be scored non-qualifying for DOE 2. (Effective June 2016) A non-qualifying (NQ) score is required for the dog’s failure to stand, for the dog standing outside a four-foot radius of the cone, or for a dog moving major distance from the place where it stood at any time during the stand.

4.8.8 DOE 2 – Part B, Scoring
Add phrase “if the dog moves after standing without going outside the four foot radius or”
Last paragraph would now read: “Substantial or minor deductions shall be made if the dog moves after standing without going outside the four foot radius or if the dog has attempted but not assumed heel position by the time the handler reaches the ring barrier.”

OB.16.09  Omit counting excused dogs

1.12 Disqualification and Ineligibility
No dog, which has been excused or disqualified at a given trial, shall count toward the total number of dogs judged or the number of dogs in that particular obedience class.