Changes to June 2018 Obedience Rules

OB.17.04 Change to 1.1.2 & 1.13 BIS Placement Option

Effective Date: June 1, 2018

Committee Rationale: If the obedience bitches in season (OBIS) are not eligible for awards, other competitors will not have to wait until the end of a trial to receive their own scores and awards. This will make it more likely that clubs will offer the OBIS option, knowing that fewer other competitors will be inconvenienced by it. An intact bitch owning competitor asked the Obedience Committee to consider this, stating that her own ASCA club would probably only allow OBIS under these conditions. This will affect obedience competitors by making the running of OBIS less inconvenient for them. It will affect clubs considering the OBIS option by providing a different path for allowing OBIS. It will affect owners of intact bitches by possibly giving them a reduced chance at awards or possibly giving them a chance to trial for legs and scores instead of not at all.

NEW WORDING:

1.1.2 Premium
The Premium shall at a minimum indicate:

a. Club name
b. Club officers (emails and/or phone numbers)
c. Show committee (emails and/or phone numbers)
d. Show/trial secretary (mailing address, email and phone number)
e. The names of the judges hired (level through which they will be judging)
f. Names of the classes offered (regular, optional titling and non-regular), division and class order (Note: All regular classes should be listed as follows: Novice A and B, Open Dog Excellent A and B, Companion Dog Excellent A and B, plus Utility A and B).
g. Date of trials
h. Refund information
i. Show site particulars including directions to site and when the site is open or closed
j. Awards particulars
k. When group exercises shall be held and in what order
l. Entry fees, pre-entry and closing entry date with mailing particulars
m. Motel/hotel/camping information
n. Tracking number application attached and/or linked
o. Entry blank attached and/or linked as applicable
p. Entry limitations, i.e. maximum number of entries or hours per trial or day
q. If allowing bitches in season, the prominent statement: Bitches in season permitted. They must be crated at least 50’ from obedience ring, wear pants and run last after all obedience judging is finished. (Effective June 2017)

r. If allowing bitches in season, details on which trial/s allow them when there are two trials in one day. (Effective June 2017)

s. If allowing bitches in season, whether they will be eligible for awards or only allowed to compete for legs and scores.

1.1.3 Disturbances
Bitches in season are not permitted to compete except under the specific circumstances detailed below. The judge of an Obedience Trial must remove from competition any bitch in season, any dog which its handler cannot control, any handler who interferes willfully with another competitor or his dog, and any handler who abuses his dog in the ring, and may excuse from competition any dog which he considers unfit to compete, or any bitch which appears so attractive to males as to be a disturbing element.

If a dog or handler is disqualified or excused by a judge, the reason shall be stated in the judge's book or in a separate report.

Bitches in season may compete and will be eligible for all awards at the Nationals Obedience Trial and Obedience Finals. They are to compete last after all obedience judging is finished with the exception of run-offs each day. This includes sits and downs, which shall be held separately. Multiple bitches in season may take part in group sits and downs together.

Regular trials may also allow bitches in season (OBIS) to compete, if a club chooses to and if it is specified beforehand in the premium. Clubs allowing OBIS may choose to exempt them from awards. In that case, OBIS will compete, after all run offs and awards are completed, for legs and scores only. If a club does not exempt them from awards, OBIS will compete after all obedience judging is finished with the exception of any run-offs for which the OBIS might be eligible. Any awards or placements for which the OBIS might be eligible will be presented after the OBIS competes.

If a club chooses to allow them in two trials on the same day and specifies this clearly in the premium, bitches in season entered in the first trial will be allowed to run at the end of the first trial and again at the end of the second trial.

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. Handlers must notify the Show/Trial Secretary at least 30 minutes before the start of the trial if they plan to compete with a bitch in season.

PREVIOUS WORDING:
1.1.2 Premium
The Premium shall at a minimum indicate:
   a. Club name
   b. Club officers (emails and/or phone numbers)
c. Show committee (emails and/or phone numbers)
d. Show/trial secretary (mailing address, email and phone number)
e. The names of the judges hired (level through which they will be judging)
f. Names of the classes offered (regular, optional titling and non-regular), division and class order
   (Note: All regular classes should be listed as follows: Novice A and B, Open Dog Excellent A and B, Companion Dog Excellent A and B, plus Utility A and B.
g. Date of trials
h. Refund information
i. Show site particulars including directions to site and when the site is open or closed
j. Awards particulars
k. When group exercises shall be held and in what order
l. Entry fees, pre-entry and closing entry date with mailing particulars
m. Motel/hotel/camping information
n. Tracking number application attached and/or linked
o. Entry blank attached and/or linked as applicable
p. Entry limitations, i.e. maximum number of entries or hours per trial or day
q. If allowing bitches in season, the prominent statement: Bitches in season permitted. They must be crated at least 50’ from obedience ring, wear pants and run last after all obedience judging is finished. (Effective June 2017)
r. If allowing bitches in season, details on which trial/s allow them when there are two trials in one day. (Effective June 2017)

1.13 Disturbances
Bitches in season are not permitted to compete except under the specific circumstances detailed below. The judge of an Obedience Trial must remove from competition any bitch in season, any dog which its handler cannot control, any handler who interferes willfully with another competitor or his dog, and any handler who abuses his dog in the ring, and may excuse from competition any dog which he considers unfit to compete, or any bitch which appears so attractive to males as to be a disturbing element.

If a dog or handler is disqualified or excused by a judge, the reason shall be stated in the judge's book or in a separate report.

Bitches in season may compete at the Nationals Obedience Trial and Obedience Finals. Regular trials may also allow bitches in season to compete, if a club chooses to and if it is specified beforehand in the premium. They are to compete last after all obedience judging is finished with the exception of run-offs each day. This includes sits and downs, which shall be held separately. Multiple bitches in season may take part in group sits and downs together.
If a club chooses to allow them in two trials on the same day and specifies this clearly in the premium, bitches in season entered in the first trial will be allowed to run at the end of the first trial and again at the end of the second trial.

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. Handlers must notify the Show/Trial Secretary at least 30 minutes before the start of the trial if they plan to compete with a bitch in season.

**OB.17.07 Clarify Eligibility for A vs B Classes**

*Effective Date: June 1, 2018*

**NEW WORDING:**

3.1 Novice A Class

The Novice class shall be for dogs not less than six (6) months of age that have not earned the C.D. title from any registry. A handler must own or co-own the dog entered or be a member of the owner’s household or immediate family, and cannot have. A dog that is owned by a person who has previously handled or regularly trained a dog that has earned a CD title from any registry, may not be entered in order to be eligible to enter or handle any dog in the Novice A class nor may a dog be handled in this class by such person. No dog may be entered in both the Novice A and Novice B classes at any one trial.

More than one dog may be shown by the handler provided the handler has not placed a CD title on a dog from any registry and the dog does not have a CD title from any registry. The same person who handles the dog in the individual exercises must handle the dog in the group exercises, with the following exception. Each dog in this class must have a different handler during sits and downs when judged in the same group; this additional handler for the group exercises need not be a member of the owner’s household or immediate family.

4.2 Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)

This class has the Open A and Open B Divisions as set forth below.

1. Open A Division Class Eligibility and Exercises

The Open A class shall be for any dogs that have earned the CD title from ASCA but have not earned the ASCA ODX or CDX title. Each dog must be handled by its owner or by a member of the owner’s household or immediate family. The same person who handles the dog in the individual exercises must handle the dog in the group exercises. However, if a person has handled more than one dog in the individual exercises that will participate in the group exercises, that person must provide a handler for the additional dog when judged in the same group. The additional handler for the group exercises need not be a member of the owner’s household or immediate family. No dog may be entered in both the Open A and Open B classes at any one trial.

4.3 Open Dog Excellent (ODX)

This class has the Open A and Open B Divisions as set forth below.

1. Open A Division Class Eligibility

The Open A class shall be for any dogs that have earned the CD title from ASCA but have not earned the ASCA ODX or CDX title. Each dog must be handled by its owner or by a member of the owner’s household or immediate family. No dog may be entered in both the Open A and Open B classes at any one trial.
5.2 Utility A Class
The Utility A class shall be for any dogs that have earned the ASCA CDX and/or ODX title but have not earned the ASCA UD title. Each dog must be handled by its owner or by a member of the owner’s household or immediate family. No dog may be entered in both the Utility A and Utility B classes at any one trial.

8.2 Beginner Novice A Class
A dog entered in Beginner Novice A must be handled by someone who has never previously handled or regularly trained a dog that has earned a BN title or a CD title from any registry. The dog must be owned by the handler or by a member of the handler’s household or immediate family. A person may handle more than one (1) dog in this class. No dog may be entered in both the Beginner Novice A and Beginner Novice B classes at any one trial.

PREVIOUS WORDING:
3.1 Novice A Class
The Novice class shall be for dogs not less than six (6) months of age that have not earned the C.D. title from any registry. A dog that is owned by a person who has previously handled or regularly trained a dog that has earned a C.D. title from any registry may not be entered in the Novice A class, nor may a dog be handled in this class by such person. More than one dog may be shown by the handler provided the handler has not placed a C.D. title on a dog from any registry and the dog does not have a C.D. title from any registry. Each dog in this class must have a different handler during sits and downs when judged in the same group.

4.2 Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)
This class has the Open A and Open B Divisions as set forth below.
1. Open A Division Class Eligibility and Exercises
The Open A class shall be for any dogs that have earned the CD title from ASCA but have not earned the ASCA ODX or CDX title.

4.3 Open Dog Excellent (ODX)
This class has the Open A and Open B Divisions as set forth below.
1. Open A Division Class Eligibility
The Open A class shall be for any dogs that have earned the CD title from ASCA but have not earned the ASCA ODX or CDX title.

5.2 Utility A Class
The Utility A class shall be for any dogs that have earned the ASCA CDX and/or ODX title but have not earned the ASCA UD title.

8.2 Beginner Novice A Class
A dog entered in Beginner Novice A must be handled by someone who has never previously handled or regularly trained a dog that has earned a BN title or a CD title from any registry. The dog must be owned by the handler or by a member of the handler’s household or immediate family. A person may handle more than one (1) dog in this class.

OB.17.08 Failure to Sit-Heel on Leash Deductions
Effective Date: June 1, 2018
NEW WORDING:

3.6 Heel on Leash & Figure Eight, Scoring

If a dog is unmanageable, or if its handler constantly controls its performance by tugging on the leash or adapts pace to that of the dog, the dog must be scored non-qualifying.

Substantial deductions shall be made for additional commands or signals to heel and for failure of dog or handler to noticeably accelerate forward for the Fast and noticeably decelerate speed forward for the Slow.

Substantial or minor deductions shall be made for such things as lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, failure to sit when handler halts, handler failing to walk at a brisk pace, occasional guidance with leash and other imperfections in heeling.

Substantial or minor deductions shall be made for hand and arm positions that deviate from those allowed in Chapter 2, Section 19, Hands.

In scoring this exercise the judge shall accompany the handler at a discreet distance so that he can observe any signals or commands given by the handler to the dog. The judge must do so without interfering with either dog or handler.

8.7 Heel on Leash, Scoring

If a dog is unmanageable, or if its handler constantly controls its performance by tugging on the leash or adapts pace to that of the dog, the dog must be scored non-qualifying (NQ).

Minor deductions shall be made for additional commands or signals to heel and for failure of dog or handler to noticeably accelerate forward for the Fast or to noticeably decelerate speed forward for the Slow. Minor deductions shall be made for such things as lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, failure to sit when handler halts, failure to sit when handler halts, handler failing to walk at a brisk pace, occasional guidance with leash and other imperfections in heeling.

One-time verbal praise or encouragement during this exercise will not be discouraged or penalized.

Some examples of allowable praise include “Good dog,” “Yes,” “Atta-boy,” “Atta-girl,” or “Nice work.”

PREVIOUS WORDING:

3.6 Heel on Leash & Figure Eight, Scoring

If a dog is unmanageable, or if its handler constantly controls its performance by tugging on the leash or adapts pace to that of the dog, the dog must be scored non-qualifying.

Substantial deductions shall be made for additional commands or signals to heel and for failure of dog or handler to noticeably accelerate forward for the Fast and noticeably decelerate speed forward for the Slow.

Substantial or minor deductions shall be made for such things as lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, handler failing to walk at a brisk pace, occasional guidance with leash and other imperfections in heeling.

Substantial or minor deductions shall be made for hand and arm positions that deviate from those allowed in Chapter 2, Section 19, Hands.

In scoring this exercise the judge shall accompany the handler at a discreet distance so that he can observe any signals or commands given by the handler to the dog. The judge must do so without interfering with either dog or handler.

8.7 Heel on Leash, Scoring

If a dog is unmanageable, or if its handler constantly controls its performance by tugging on the leash or adapts pace to that of the dog, the dog must be scored non-qualifying (NQ).
Minor deductions shall be made for additional commands or signals to heel and for failure of dog or handler to noticeably accelerate forward for the Fast or to noticeably decelerate speed forward for the Slow. Minor deductions shall be made for such things as lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, failure to sit when handler halts, handler failing to walk at a brisk pace, occasional guidance with leash and other imperfections in heeling.

One time verbal praise or encouragement during this exercise will not be discouraged or penalized. Some examples of allowable praise include “Good dog,” “Yes,” “Atta-boy,” “Atta-girl,” or “Nice work.”

**OB.18.01 Continuing Education Requirements for all ASCA Obedience Judges**

**Effective Date:** June 1, 2018

NEW WORDING:

3 Obedience Judge Requirements

...  
3.4 Continuing Education Requirements for all ASCA Obedience Judges

3.4.1 Staying Up to Date on Rules

It is the responsibility of all ASCA Obedience judges to stay up to date on the current rules and regulations affecting the ASCA Obedience program. Lists of rule changes for the most recent rulebooks can be found on the ASCA website. Only those program rules contained in the latest version of each rulebook shall be enforceable.

3.4.2 ASCA Obedience Judges Education

Starting July 1, 2018, all ASCA Obedience judges will be required to certify at least every three years that they have completed one of the required options for continuing judge education. Newly approved judges will be required to certify within 12 months of first approval. The list of judge education options for each year will be delineated in the ASCA Obedience Judge Education Certification Form to be posted on the ASCA website. In addition, upon request, the Business Office will send the Obedience Judge Education Certification Form for the current year to judges who can’t utilize the online version. All current ASCA Obedience judges must certify between July 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018 that they have completed the initial continuing judges’ education. Starting in 2021, certifications for judges whose last names begin with the letters A-M will be due between January 1 and June 30. Certifications for judges whose last names begin with the letters N-Z will be due between July 1 and December 31.

3.4.3 Certification of Continuing Education

In order to maintain judging eligibility in the ASCA obedience program, it is the responsibility of each ASCA Obedience judge to complete and submit the Obedience Judge Education Certification Form at least every three years. Judges are welcome to certify more often, according to a schedule that is more convenient for them. For example, those who also judge ASCA Rally might choose to re-certify every two years (i.e. 2018, 2020, etc.). The ASCA Business Office will keep a record of which judges are up to date on certification and thus eligible to judge.

The Obedience Judge Education Certification Form can be submitted online or by downloading and sending a copy to the Business Office. Starting January 1, 2019, judges who are not up to date with certification will not be eligible to judge until they complete and submit the Obedience Judge Education Certification Form. After 2 years of lapsed certification, a judge’s name will be removed from the ASCA Obedience Judge list.

PREVIOUS WORDING:

None.