

**Revisions to the  
Obedience Regulations**

**Effective July 1, 2013**

**This insert is issued as a supplement to the  
Obedience Regulations amended  
January 1, 2012.**

**The following Chapters have been amended:**

**Chapter 2** – Regulations for Performance and Judging

**Section 1. Standardized Judging** (amended walkthrough information)

**Chapter 7 – Pre-Novice / Optional Titling Class** (New class)

**Chapter 8**<sup>+</sup> – Graduate Novice / Optional Titling Class

**Chapter 9 – Pre-Open / Optional Titling Class** (New class)

**Chapter 10**<sup>+</sup> – Graduate Open / Optional Titling Class

**Chapter 11 – Pre-Utility / Optional Titling Class** (New class)

**Chapter 12**<sup>+</sup> – Versatility / Optional Titling Class

**Chapter 13**<sup>+</sup> – Obedience Trial Championship

**Chapter 14**<sup>+</sup> – Utility Dog Excellent

**Chapter 15**<sup>+</sup> – Obedience Master Title and Grand Master Title

**Chapter 16**<sup>+</sup> – National Obedience Champion

**Chapter 17**<sup>+</sup> – Versatile Companion Dog

**Chapter 18**<sup>+</sup> – Non-Regular Classes

**Section 9. Sub-Novice Class** (Non-Regular Class renamed, was Pre-Novice)

<sup>+</sup> Chapter has been renumbered.

**CHAPTER 2**  
**REGULATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE AND JUDGING**

**Section 1. Standardized Judging.** Standardized judging is of paramount importance. Judges are not permitted to inject their own variations into the exercise but will see that each handler and dog execute the various exercises exactly as described in these regulations. A handler who is familiar with these regulations should be able to enter the ring under any judge without having to inquire how that particular judge wishes to have an exercise performed and without being confronted with any unexpected requirements.

The judge will inform the first exhibitor in each class what the heeling pattern will be before that exhibitor enters the ring. This may be done verbally, by posting the pattern ringside or by demonstration. This same procedure will be followed in the event of run-offs. In the Novice A class, Beginner Novice class and Pre-Novice class, a 15-minute walkthrough prior to the start of the class will be allowed for handlers without their dogs. The judge must be available in the ring during this period to brief the handlers and answer any questions they might have.

**CHAPTER 7**  
**PRE-NOVICE**  
**OPTIONAL TITLING CLASS**

**Section 1. Pre-Novice Class.** The Pre-Novice class will be for all dogs and is an optional titling class that may be offered by clubs at obedience events. This class may be judged by anyone approved to judge Novice obedience classes. If eligible as defined in these regulations, dogs entered in Pre-Novice A or Pre-Novice B may also be entered in any other obedience classes. No dog may be entered in both Pre-Novice A and Pre-Novice B at any one trial. All exercises will be scored as in the Novice class unless stated otherwise.

**Section 2. Pre-Novice A Class.** The Pre-Novice A class shall be for dogs that have not won the Pre-Companion Dog (PCD) title. A handler must own the dog entered, or be a member of the owner's household or immediate family. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. No dog may be entered in both Pre-Novice A and Pre-Novice B at any trial.

**Section 3. Pre-Novice B Class.** The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. A dog may continue to compete in this class after it has won the PCD title or any other obedience title.

**Section 4. Pre-Novice Exercises and Scores.** The exercises, maximum scores and order of judging in the Pre-Novice classes are:

<u>1. Heel on Leash</u>	<u>25 points</u>
<u>2. Figure Eight on Leash</u>	<u>15 points</u>
<u>3. Stand for Examination (off leash)</u>	<u>25 points</u>
<u>4. Heel Free (off leash)</u>	<u>25 points</u>
<u>5. Recall</u>	<u>25 points</u>
<u>6. Stay – Sit or Down</u>	<u>25 points</u>
<u>Maximum Total Score</u>	<u>140 points</u>

Qualifying Score: In the Pre-Novice Classes, a qualifying score means that the dog has earned more than 50 percent of the points for each exercise with a total score of at least 120 points.

**Section 5. Pre-Novice Title.** The letters PCD may be added after the name of each dog that has been certified by two different judges to have received qualifying scores in Pre-Novice classes at three licensed or member obedience trials. That dog will receive a Pre-Novice certificate from the AKC.

Suggested judging rate of 9 dogs per hour and for planning purposes, clubs should consider ring set up time.

**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 are: “Forward,” “Halt,” “Right turn,” “Left turn,” “About turn,” “Slow,” “Normal,” and “Fast.” Fast means that the handler must run, and the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed. All about turns will be right about turns. Orders for halts and turns will be given only when the handler is moving at a normal speed. The other orders may be given in any sequence, and turns and halts may be repeated. However, 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 each order to halt, 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 on the judge’s order. After each halt, it is permissible for the handler to give a command or signal to heel before moving forward again. The judge will say, “Exercise finished” after this portion of the exercise.

**Section 7. Figure Eight on Leash.** 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 stand 8 feet apart. 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.

**Section 8. Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, Scoring.** If a handler is constantly controlling the dog by tugging on the leash or is adapting to the dog's pace, that dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score for the exercise.

Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the circumstances, 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.

Substantial or 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.

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

**Section 9. Stand for Examination.** The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog stand in position before and during the examination without displaying resentment. Orders are: "Stand your dog and leave when you are ready," "Back to your dog," and "Exercise finished." On the judge's order, the handler will remove the leash and give it to a steward, who will place it on the judge's table or other designated place.

The handler will take their dog to the place indicated by the judge and, on the judge's order, will stand/pose the dog by the method of the handler's choice, taking any reasonable time if they choose to pose the dog as in the show ring. The handler will then stand with the dog in the heel position, give the command and/or signal to stay, walk straight forward about 6 feet, and then turn and face the dog.

The judge will approach the dog from the front. Using the fingers and palm of one hand, the judge will touch the dog's head, body and hindquarters. On the order "Back to your dog," the handler will walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position. The dog must remain standing until the judge has said "Exercise finished."

**Section 10. Stand for Examination, 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 its handler's attempts to have it stand. Either of these will be penalized substantially.

A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it sits or lies down, moves away from the place where it was left either before or during the examination or growls, snaps or displays resentment.

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

**Section 11. Heel Free, Performance and Scoring.** This exercise will be performed as in the Heel on Leash but without either the leash or the Figure Eight. The scoring and orders will be the same.

**Section 12. 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 to the handler's command or signal to come. Orders are: "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," and "Finish."

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 to the other end of the ring, turn to face the dog, and stand with the arms and hands hanging naturally. On the judge's order or signal, the handler will either command or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly, at a brisk trot or gallop and sit straight, centered in front of the handler. The dog must be close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching or moving either foot. On the judge's order, the handler will give a command or signal to finish. The dog must go smartly to heel position and sit. The manner in which the dog finishes will be optional, provided it is prompt and that the dog sits straight at heel.

**Section 13. Recall, Scoring.** A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it is given an additional command and/or signal to stay, if it fails to come on the first command or signal, if it moves from the place it was left before being called or signaled to come, or if it does not sit close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching or moving either foot.

Substantial deductions will be made for a handler's extra command or signal to sit or finish and for a dog that fails to remain sitting and either stands or lies down, fails to come at a brisk trot or gallop, fails to sit in front, or fails to finish or sit at heel.

Minor or substantial deductions will be made for slow or poor sits, for finishes that are not prompt or smart, for touching the handler on coming in or while finishing, and for sitting between the handler's feet.

**Section 14. Stay – Sit or Down – Handler Walk Around the Ring.** The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit or down position as directed by the judge. All dogs entered in the class will perform the same stay exercise. The dog and handler should be positioned approximately

equidistant to each side of the ring as to be perpendicular to and facing one of the sides.

Orders for this exercise are: "Sit/Down 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. When the judge gives the order "Sit/Down your dog," the handler will command and/or signal the dog to sit/down. The judge will order "Leave your dog," and the handler will give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately proceed straight forward to the edge of the ring. The handler will walk around the inside perimeter of the ring in a direction as indicated by the judge, with all dogs entered in the class being judged the same way. 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 15. 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/down 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/down. 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.

*In accordance with Chapter 2, Section 9 of the Obedience Regulations the run-off procedure in the case of ties in the Pre-Novice class will be the Novice Heel on Leash exercise as performed in the regular Novice class.*

**CHAPTER 9**  
**PRE-OPEN**  
**OPTIONAL TITLING CLASS**

**Section 1. Pre-Open Class.** The Pre-Open class will be for all dogs and is an optional titling class that may be offered by clubs at obedience events. This class may be judged by anyone approved to judge Open obedience classes. If eligible as defined in these regulations, dogs entered in Pre-Open A or Pre-Open B may also be entered in any other obedience classes. All exercises will be scored as in the Open class unless stated otherwise.

**Section 2. Pre-Open A Class.** The Pre-Open A class shall be for dogs that have not won the Pre-Companion Dog Excellent (PCDX) title. Anyone who has trained or exhibited a dog that has earned an OTCH may not enter or handle dogs in this class. Each dog must be handled by its owner or by a member of the owner's household or immediate family. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. No dog may be entered in both Pre-Open A and Pre-Open B at any trial.

**Section 3. Pre-Open B Class.** The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. No dog may be entered in both Pre-Open A and Pre-Open B at any one trial. A dog may continue to compete in this class after it has won the PCDX title or any other obedience title.

**Section 4. Pre-Open A Exercises and Scores.** The exercises, maximum scores and order of judging in the Pre-Open classes:

<u>1. Heel Free (off leash)</u>	<u>25 points</u>
<u>2. Figure Eight (off leash)</u>	<u>15 points</u>
<u>3. Drop on Recall</u>	<u>30 points</u>
<u>4. Retrieve on Flat</u>	<u>20 points</u>
<u>5. Retrieve over High Jump*</u>	<u>30 points</u>
<u>6. Broad Jump</u>	<u>20 points</u>
<u>Maximum Total Score</u>	<u>140 points</u>

**NOTE:** *There are no sit/down group exercises in the Pre-Open classes.*

*\*The jump height is to be set at 1/2 the height of the dog at the withers, rounded to the nearest multiple of 2 inches (see Retrieve over High Jump section for additional information).*

**Qualifying Score:** In the Pre-Open Classes, a qualifying score means that the dog has earned more than 50 percent of the points for each exercise with a total score of at least 120 points.

**Section 5. Pre-Open B Exercises and Scores.** The various orders of exercises in the Pre-Open B class (points and scores are the same as in Pre-Open A):

**PRE-OPEN I**

1. Heel Free (off leash)
2. Figure Eight (off leash)
3. Drop on Recall
4. Retrieve on Flat
5. Retrieve over High Jump\*
6. Broad Jump

**PRE-OPEN II**

1. Broad Jump
2. Retrieve over High Jump\*
3. Retrieve on Flat
4. Drop on Recall
5. Figure Eight (off leash)
6. Heel Free (off leash)

**PRE-OPEN III**

1. Retrieve on Flat
2. Drop on Recall
3. Retrieve over High Jump\*
4. Broad Jump
5. Figure Eight (off leash)
6. Heel Free (off leash)

**PRE-OPEN IV**

1. Drop on Recall
2. Heel Free (off leash)
3. Figure Eight (off leash)
4. Retrieve over High Jump\*
5. Broad Jump
6. Retrieve on Flat

**PRE-OPEN V**

1. Retrieve over High Jump\*
2. Drop on Recall
3. Figure Eight (off leash)
4. Heel Free (off leash)
5. Retrieve on Flat
6. Broad Jump

**PRE-OPEN VI**

1. Broad Jump
2. Figure Eight (off leash)
3. Heel Free (off leash)
4. Drop on Recall
5. Retrieve over High Jump\*
6. Retrieve on Flat

**Section 6. Pre-Open Title.** The letters PCDX may be added after the name of each dog that has been certified by two different judges to have received qualifying scores in Pre-Open classes at three licensed or member obedience trials. That dog will receive a Pre-Open certificate from the AKC.

Suggested judging rate of 8 dogs per hour and for planning purposes, clubs should consider ring set up time.

**Section 7. Heel Free and Figure Eight, Performance and Scoring.** This exercise will be executed in the same manner as the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise, except that the dog will be off leash. Orders and scoring are the same as in Heel on Leash and Figure Eight.

**Section 8. Drop on Recall. Drop on Recall.** The principal features of this exercise, in addition to those listed under the Novice Recall, are the dog's prompt response to the handler's command or signal to drop and the dog's remaining in the down position until again called or signaled to come. The dog will be judged on the promptness of its response to the command or signal. The judge will order "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," then give a clear signal to drop the dog, followed by "Call your dog" and "Finish."



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

**Section 9. Drop on Recall, Scoring.** A non-qualifying (NQ) score must be given to any dog that does not drop completely to the down position on a single command or signal or to a dog that does not remain down until called or signaled.

Minor or substantial deductions, up to a non-qualifying (NQ) score, shall be made for delayed or slow response to the handler's command or signal to drop and for slow response to either of the recalls. All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall shall apply.

**Section 10. Retrieve on Flat.** The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog retrieve promptly. Orders are "Throw it," "Send your dog," "Take it," and "Finish."

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

The finish will be executed as in the Novice Recall.

The dumbbell, which must be approved by the judge, will be made of one or more solid pieces of wood or non-wooden material similar in size, shape and weight to a wooden dumbbell. Metal dumbbells are not permitted. Dumbbells will not be hollowed out. They may be unfinished, coated with a clear finish or may be any color. They may not have decorations or attachments but may bear an inconspicuous mark for identification. The size of the dumbbell will be proportionate to the size of the dog. The judge will require the dumbbell to be thrown again before the dog is sent if it is thrown less than 20 feet, too far to one side or too close to the ring's edge.

**Section 11. Retrieve on Flat, Scoring.** A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it fails to go out on the first command or signal, goes to retrieve before the command or signal is given, fails to retrieve, or does not return with

the dumbbell sufficiently close that the handler can easily take the dumbbell as described above.

Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog's slowness in going out, returning or picking up the dumbbell, not going directly to the dumbbell, mouthing or playing with the dumbbell, and reluctance or refusal to release the dumbbell to the handler. Depending on the extent, minor or substantial deductions will be made for dropping the dumbbell. All other applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall will apply.

**Section 12. Retrieve Over High Jump.** The principal features of this exercise are that the dog go out over the jump, pick up the dumbbell and promptly return with it over the jump. Orders are: "Throw it," "Send your dog," "Take it," and "Finish." This exercise will be executed in the same manner as the Retrieve on Flat, except that the dog will clear the high jump both going and coming. The handler will stand at least 8 feet (or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet) from the jump, will remain in the same spot throughout the exercise, and will throw the dumbbell at least 8 feet beyond the jump. (These 8-foot distances should be clearly marked.)

Jump heights shall be set in multiples of 2 inches with no dog jumping less than 4 inches or more than 36 inches. \*The jump height is to be set at 1/2 the height of the dog at the withers, rounded to the nearest multiple of 2 inches. The actual height of the dog shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of 2 inches to determine the minimum jump height, with the exception of dogs eligible for the 4- and 18-inch jump heights. Dogs eligible for the 4 inch jump height must be 10 inches or less at the withers and all dogs over 34" are eligible for the 18" jump height. Handlers who choose to have their dogs jump more than the minimum required height will neither be penalized nor receive extra consideration.

<u>Measured height of dog at withers</u>	<u>Minimum Height to be Jumped</u>
10" or less	4"
Greater than 10" up to 14"	6"
Greater than 14" up to 18"	8"
Greater than 18" up to 22"	10"
Greater than 22" up to 26"	12"
Greater than 26" up to 30"	14"
Greater than 30" up to 34"	16"
Greater than 34"	18"

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

The high jump will be 5 feet wide and built to be set at a height of 4 inches and adjustable at 2-inch increments from 8 inches to 36 inches. The uprights of

the high jump will be 4 feet high. In addition, four 8-inch boards, one 4-inch board and one 2-inch board should be available for use. The jump will be a flat white. The height of each board will be indicated in black 2-inch numbers.

**Section 13. Retrieve Over High Jump, Scoring.** A dog that fails to go over the full height of the jump in either direction, that uses the jump for any aid in going over, or that returns over the jump without the dumbbell must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score. Depending on the specific circumstances, minor or substantial deductions shall be made for a dog that touches the jump when going over it or for a dog that displays any hesitation in jumping. All other penalties listed under the Retrieve on Flat apply.

**Section 14. Broad Jump.** The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until directed to jump, that the dog clear the jump on a single command or signal, and that the dog return to its handler after it has jumped. Orders are "Leave your dog," "Send your dog," and "Finish." The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet from the jump facing the lowest side of the lowest hurdle. (This 8-foot distance must be clearly marked.) On order from the judge to "Leave your dog," the handler will give the command and/or signal to stay and go to a position facing the right side of the jump. Handlers may stand anywhere between the lowest edge of the first hurdle and the highest edge of the last hurdle with their toes about 2 feet from the jump.

On the judge's order, the handler will give the command or signal to jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler will execute a 90-degree pivot, but will remain in the same spot. The dog will clear the entire distance of the hurdles without touching them and, without further command or signal, immediately return to a sitting position in front of the handler, finishing as in the Novice Recall.

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

**Section 15. Broad Jump, Scoring.** A dog that fails to stay until directed to jump, refuses the jump on the first command or signal, or steps on or between the hurdles must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score. Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that does not return directly to the handler, that displays any hesitation in jumping, or that touches the jump. All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall shall apply.

In accordance with Chapter 2, Section 9 of the Obedience Regulations the run-off procedure in the case of ties in the Pre-Open class will be the Novice Heel off Leash exercise as performed in the regular Novice class.

**CHAPTER 11**  
**PRE-UTILITY**  
**OPTIONAL TITLING CLASS**

**Section 1. Pre-Utility Class.** The Pre-Utility class will be for all dogs and is an optional titling class that may be offered by clubs at obedience events. This class may be judged by anyone approved to judge Utility obedience classes. If eligible as defined in these regulations, dogs entered in Pre-Utility A or Pre-Utility B may also be entered in any other obedience classes. All exercises will be scored as in the Utility class unless stated otherwise.

**Section 2. Pre-Utility A Class.** The Pre-Utility A class shall be for dogs that have not won the Pre-Utility Dog (PUTD) title. Anyone who has trained or exhibited a dog that has earned an OTCH may not enter or handle dogs in this class. Each dog will be handled by its owner or by a member of the owner's immediate family or household. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. No dog may be entered in both Pre-Utility A and Pre-Utility B at any trial.

**Section 3. Pre-Utility B Class.** The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. No dog may be entered in both Pre-Utility A and Pre-Utility B at any one trial. A dog may continue to compete in this class after it has won the PUTD title or any other obedience title.

**Section 4. Pre-Utility Exercises and Scores.**

The exercises, maximum scores and order of judging:

<u>1. Signal Exercise</u>	<u>30 points</u>
<u>2. Scent Discrimination Article #1</u>	<u>20 points</u>
<u>3. Scent Discrimination Article #2</u>	<u>20 points</u>
<u>4. Directed Retrieve</u>	<u>20 points</u>
<u>5. Moving Stand and Exam</u>	<u>20 points</u>
<u>6. Directed Jumping*</u>	<u>30 points</u>
<u>Maximum Total Score</u>	<u>140 points</u>

*\*The jump height is to be set at 1/2 the height of the dog at the withers, rounded to the nearest multiple of 2 inches (see the Pre-Open Retrieve over High Jump exercise for additional information).*

**Qualifying Score:** In the Pre-Utility Classes, a qualifying score means that the dog has earned more than 50 percent of the points for each exercise with a total score of at least 120 points.

**Section 5. Pre-Utility B Exercises and Scores.** The various orders of exercises in the Pre-Utility B class (points and total scores are the same as in Pre-Utility A):

UTILITY I

1. Signal Exercise
2. Scent Discrimination #1
3. Scent Discrimination #2
4. Directed Retrieve
5. Moving Stand & Exam
6. Directed Jumping\*

UTILITY II

1. Directed Jumping\*
2. Moving Stand & Exam
3. Directed Retrieve
4. Scent Discrimination #1
5. Scent Discrimination #2
6. Signal Exercise

UTILITY III

1. Scent Discrimination #1
2. Scent Discrimination #2
3. Directed Retrieve
4. Signal Exercise
5. Moving Stand & Exam
6. Directed Jumping\*

UTILITY IV

1. Moving Stand & Exam
2. Directed Jumping\*
3. Signal Exercise
4. Directed Retrieve
5. Scent Discrimination #1
6. Scent Discrimination #2

UTILITY V

1. Directed Retrieve
2. Scent Discrimination #1
3. Scent Discrimination #2
4. Directed Jumping\*
5. Signal Exercise
6. Moving Stand & Exam

UTILITY VI

1. Directed Retrieve
2. Signal Exercise
3. Directed Jumping\*
4. Moving Stand & Exam
5. Scent Discrimination #1
6. Scent Discrimination #2

**Section 6. Pre-Utility Title.** The letters PUTD may be added after the name of each dog that has been certified by two different judges to have received qualifying scores in Pre-Utility classes at three licensed or member obedience trials. That dog will receive a Pre-Utility certificate from the AKC.

Suggested judging rate of 7 dogs per hour and for planning purposes, clubs should consider ring set up time.

**Section 7. Signal Exercise.** The principal features of this exercise are the ability of dog and handler to work as a team while heeling and the dog's correct response to the signals to stand, stay, down, sit and come.

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

Heeling will be done as in the Heel Free, except that handlers may use signals only and must not speak to their dogs at any time during this exercise. While the dog is heeling at one end of the ring, the judge will order the handler

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

**Section 8. Signal Exercise, Scoring.** A dog that fails to obey the handler’s first signal to stand, stay, down, sit or come or that receives a verbal command from the handler to do any of these parts of the exercise, must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score. Depending on the specific circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that walks forward on the stand, down or sit portions of the exercise. The deduction could be up to an NQ. A substantial deduction will be made for any audible command during the heeling or finish portions of the exercise. All applicable penalties listed under the Heel on Leash and the Novice Recall (after the dog has been signaled to come) exercises will apply.

**Section 9. Scent Discrimination.** The principal features of these exercises are the selection of the handler’s article from among the other articles by scent alone and the prompt delivery of the correct article to the handler.

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

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

The articles will be provided by the handler and will consist of two sets, each comprised of five identical objects, which may be items of everyday use. The size of the articles will be proportionate to the size of the dog. One set must be made entirely of rigid metal and one of leather, designed so that only a minimum amount of thread or other material is visible. The articles in each set will be legibly numbered with a different number and must be approved by the judge. The handler will present all ten articles to the judge, who will make a written note of the numbers on the two articles they have selected. These articles will be placed on a table or chair within the ring until the handler picks each up separately.

The judge or steward will handle each of the remaining eight articles while randomly arranging them on the floor or ground about 6 inches apart. The closest article should be about 20 feet from the handler and dog. Before the dog is sent, the judge must make sure that the articles are visible to both dog and handler and that they are far enough apart so that there will be no confusion of scent among articles.

After the articles have been put out, the handler and dog will turn around and will remain facing away until the judge has given the order, “Send your dog.”

The handler may use either article first, but must hand it to the judge immediately when ordered. The judge will make certain handlers scent each article with their hands only.

On the judge's order, the handler will place the article on the judge's book or worksheet. Without touching that article, the judge or steward will place it among the others.

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

Handlers have the option as to how the dog is sent. Handlers may give their scent by extending the palm of one hand in front of the dog's nose or gently touching the dog's nose, but the arm and hand must be returned to a natural position before they turn and face the articles.

The dog should go directly to the articles at a brisk trot or gallop. It may take any reasonable time to select the correct article but must work continuously. After picking up the correct article, the dog will complete the exercise as in the Retrieve on Flat. This procedure should be followed for both articles.

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

**Section 10. Scent Discrimination, Scoring.** A dog that retrieves a wrong article or that does not complete the retrieve of the right article must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score. If the "After a sit" method is used, anticipating the command to retrieve must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score. If the "Send directly" method is used, any additional command to retrieve must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score. Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions should be made for a dog that is slow, that does not go directly to the articles, that does not work continuously, or for a handler who uses excessive motions when turning toward the articles.

Similar deductions will be made for a dog that picks up the wrong article, even if it is immediately put down again, for any roughness by handlers in giving their scent to the dog, or for handlers not turning in place. There should be no penalty for a dog that takes a reasonably long time examining the articles, provided it is working continuously. All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall and the Retrieve on Flat will apply.

**Section 11. Directed Retrieve.** The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay until directed to retrieve and that it go directly to the designated glove and retrieve it promptly. In this exercise the handler will provide three gloves that are predominately white. They must be open and must be approved by the judge. Handlers will stand with their backs to the unobstructed end of the

ring midway between and in line with the jumps. The dog will be sitting in heel position. The judge or steward will drop the gloves across the end of the ring while the handler and dog are facing the opposite direction. One glove is dropped about 3 feet in from each corner, and the remaining glove is dropped in the center, about 3 feet from the end of the ring.

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

Handlers may bend their bodies and knees as far as necessary to give the direction to the dogs but must then stand up in a natural position with their arms at their sides. The judge will designate the same glove number for each handler. For each judging assignment, the judge must alternate the number of the glove used.

**Section 12. Directed Retrieve, Scoring.** A non-qualifying (NQ) score is required for any commands or signals to position the dog after the handler turns to face the glove, for a dog that does not go directly to the designated glove, or for a dog that does not retrieve the correct glove. A handler who does not give a verbal command to retrieve simultaneously or immediately after giving the direction to retrieve must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

A substantial deduction, depending on the extent of the infraction, will be made for a handler who does not turn in place or does not face the designated glove. The substantial deduction may include a non-qualifying (NQ) score. All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall and the Retrieve on Flat will apply.

**Section 13. Moving Stand and Examination.** The principal features of the exercise are that the dog heel, stand and stay as the handler moves away; accept the examination without shyness or resentment; and return to the handler on command.

Orders for the exercise are: "Forward," "Stand your dog," and "Call your dog to heel."

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



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

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

**Section 14. Moving Stand and Examination, Scoring.** A non-qualifying (NQ) score is required for a dog that does any of the following: displays fear or resentment; moves from the place where it was left; sits or lies down before it is called; growls or snaps; repeatedly whines or barks; fails to heel, stand, stay, or accept the judge's examination; or fails to return to the handler.

Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions must be made for a dog that moves its feet repeatedly while remaining in place or for a dog that returns to the handler as defined in the Novice Recall but not to heel position.

Depending on the extent of hesitation, minor or substantial deductions should be made for the handler who hesitates or pauses while giving the stand command and/or signal. All appropriate penalties of the Novice Heel Free, Stand for Examination and Recall exercises will apply.

**Section 15. Directed Jumping.** The principal features of this exercise are that the dog goes away from the handler to the opposite end of the ring, stop, jump as directed, and return as in the Novice Recall. The orders are: "Send your dog," "Bar," "High" and "Finish."

The jumps will be placed midway in the ring at right angles to the longest sides of the ring about 18 to 20 feet apart. The judge must see that the jumps are set at the required height for each dog, as described in the Retrieve Over High Jump.

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

The judge will order either "Bar" or "High" for the first jump, and the handler will command and/or signal the dog to return to the handler over the designated jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler may turn to face the dog as it returns. The dog will sit in front of the handler and, on order from the judge, finish as in the Novice Recall. After the dog has returned to heel position, the judge will say, "Exercise finished." When the dog is set up for the second half of this exercise, the judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the order for the second part of the exercise. The same procedure will be followed for the second jump.

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

\*The height of the jumps and construction of the high jump will be the same as required in the Pre-Open classes. The bar jump will consist of a bar between 2 and 2 ½ inches square with the edges rounded to remove any sharpness. The bar will be flat black and white in alternate sections each about 3 inches wide. The bar will have the weight of wood. It will be supported by two unconnected 4-foot upright posts about 5 feet apart and built to be set at a height of 4 inches and must be adjustable for each 2 inches of height from 8 inches to 36 inches. The jump must be built so that the bar may be knocked off without affecting the uprights.

**Section 16. Directed Jumping, Scoring.** A dog will receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it: anticipates the handler's command and/or signal to go out; fails to leave the handler; does not go out between the jumps; does not stop and remain at least 10 feet past the jumps without an additional command; anticipates the handler's command and/or signal to jump; returns over the wrong jump; knocks the bar off the uprights; or uses the top of any jump for aid in going over.

Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that does not stop on command, that does not stop in the approximate center of the ring about 20 feet past the jumps, that does not sit, that receives an additional command to sit after the dog has stopped, or that anticipates the handler's command to sit.

Depending on the extent of the violation, minor or substantial deductions will be made for slowness in going out, for touching the jumps, or for any hesitation in jumping.

All applicable penalties of the Novice Recall exercises will apply.

In accordance with Chapter 2, Section 9 of the Obedience Regulations the run-off procedure in the case of ties in the Pre-Utility class will be the Novice Heel off leash exercise as performed in the regular Novice class.

**CHAPTER 18**  
**NON-REGULAR CLASSES**

**Section 9. Sub-Novice Class.** The Sub-Novice class shall be for dogs that have not received a third qualifying score in a Novice class prior to the closing of the trial. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. However, if a person has handled more than one dog in the first four exercises, that person must provide a handler for the additional dog in the same group exercise.

All exercises will be scored as in the Novice class, except the dogs will perform all exercises on leash, which should be 6 feet in length. The exercises, maximum scores and order of judging:

1. Heel on Leash	45 points
2. Figure Eight	25 points
3. Stand for Examination	30 points
4. Recall	40 points
5. Long Sit	30 points
6. Long Down	30 points
Maximum Total Score	200 points

**NOTE:** The Non-Regular Pre-Novice Class was renamed as the Sub-Novice Class, to allow for the new Optional Titling classes “Pre-Novice,” “Pre-Open” and “Pre-Utility” in the *Obedience Regulations*. There are no other changes to this class.