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GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR  
PARTICIPATION IN OBEDIENCE TESTS  
AND COMPETITIONS IN  
THE INTERNATIONAL OBEDIENCE CLASS  
WITH C.A.C.I.OB



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*Obedience (OB) training teaches a dog how to act in a co-operative and controlled way. Emphasis should be put on establishing good contact between the dog and the handler and on achieving the dog's willingness to obey even when at distance from the handler. Handler and dog should display a good overall relationship.*

## **I RULES ON PARTICIPATION, MANAGEMENT AND JUDGING**

### **1. Eligibility to participate in an international obedience class**

To participate in an international obedience class, or in an EW or WW championship, it is required that the dog be at least 15 months of age and registered in a studbook recognised by the FCI.

It is up to every country to decide what national obedience classes are recognised and what requirements need to be fulfilled before a dog is allowed to compete in an international obedience class. To participate in an international obedience competition, however, the handler and the dog together should at least once have passed the previous highest obedience class in their own country.

If an obedience competition is arranged in association with a dog show, it is not necessary that the dog is entered in the dog show.

Dogs that suffer from contagious diseases or have hookworms, scabies or any other vermin, or dogs that are aggressive, blind or deaf may not participate in international obedience competitions.

Dogs with docked tails or cropped ears are to be admitted in accordance with the legal regulations of their home countries and those of the country where the competition takes place.

Bitches in heat are allowed to compete but must perform last. They must be kept off the competition premises and nearby surroundings until all other dogs have completed their exercises.

Bitches that have given birth less than eight weeks before the competition date and bitches expected to give birth within four weeks must be excluded.

If necessary, the judge should check the dogs outside the ring before the start of the competition.

## **2. Eligibility to judge international obedience competitions**

Judges for obedience competitions should be licensed by the kennel club of their own country.

### **Ineligibility due to the likelihood of bias**

Judges are not permitted to judge family members as handlers, or dogs owned by themselves, family members or relatives such as children, parents, grandparents, grandchildren, brothers, sisters or in-laws. Neither are they allowed to judge household members or residents of their household.

A dog may not enter a competition if the judge of the competition has bred the dog or had the dog for training or if the dog has been living in the same household within one year of the competition.

## **3. Chief steward**

A chief steward must be appointed for the competition. The chief steward must have the appropriate qualifications. If competitors from abroad enter the competition, the steward must be able to conduct the exercises in English or a language mutually agreed upon.

If the exercises are divided to be judged by two or more judges, there should be an equal number of stewards, so that each ring will have at least one steward.

## **4. Management of the competition**

Obedience competitions are under the management of the (referee) judge of the day and the chief steward.

If incidents occur that are not dealt with in these regulations and directions, the judge decides how to proceed or how to evaluate.

## **5. Handler's obligations**

A handler's obligations as a competitor start when the handler enters the competition premises and end after the final prize-giving ceremony. Handlers must follow the rules and directions as instructed. Handlers are expected to be on their best behaviour and appropriately dressed.

The judge may disqualify a handler from the competition if he or she does not abide by the rules or behaves in an unseemly way. The judge's decision is final and no competitor shall impugn the decisions of the judge.

Handlers should report their presence in the ring 30 minutes before the competition begins.

It is forbidden to punish the dog. Barbed or electric collars and other constraining devices or means are forbidden.

The handler should have the dog on the left side during and between the exercises. If there is a physical reason or disability, the handler is allowed to have the dog on the right side during or between the exercises. The competitor or team leader of this combination must discuss the arrangement with the referee judge before the start of the competition, however. All judges concerned must be informed and the effect this has on evaluating the performances must be agreed on if there are several judges involved. The exceptional arrangements should be justified and should not be such that they cause disturbance to other dogs and competitors. For example, if a competitor is bound to a wheelchair, he or she should, in exercises 1 & 2, be placed at that end of the line where no other dog is passed than his or her own that is, he is first in line.

## **6. Dog's behaviour / Disqualification**

A dog that at any time, even after completing the exercises, bites, tries to bite, attacks or tries to attack people or other dogs, is disqualified from the competition. All points are lost even if the performance has already been completed. In a two-day event, the disqualification is valid also for the second day and thus the dog can not compete. The incident is noted in the dog's working book and a report that must be sent to the kennel club that the dog represents and the kennel club of the arranging country.

## **7. Other regulations**

When the competition ring is being built or has been built for the competition, a handler is not allowed to enter the competition ring together with the dog unless the steward has given permission.

In the group exercises (1 and 2), the minimum number of dogs in a group is three and the maximum six. In a competition where the number of dogs is not divisible by six, two of the groups may consist of seven dogs.

## **II PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT**

### **Layout, number of competitors, size of the ring and equipment needed**

#### **1. Layout of the competition**

For FCI Euro and World Winner competitions as well as for all international competitions, the referee judge has the right, having consulted the organising committee, to decide in which order the exercises will be done during the competition and how the exercises are grouped together. The order should be the same for all competitors.

#### **2. Number of competitors**

It is recommended that a judge does not judge more than about four dogs per hour and not more than 25 dogs per day. If more than one judge is appointed, each judge judges the exercises appointed to him for all dogs entering.

#### **3. Size of the obedience ring**

The size of the obedience ring for an indoor competition should be at least 20 m x 30 m. When the competition is outdoors, the preferred size is at least 25 m x 40 m. A ring can be smaller if the exercises are divided among two or more rings and those exercises requiring less space are grouped together. A ring should be clearly marked. It is up to the judge to decide whether the ring size is acceptable or not.

#### **4. Equipment**

It is the responsibility of the organising committee to keep the regulations and instructions available at the competition premises.

A boarded hurdle approximately 1 m wide and adjustable in height from about 10 cm to 100 cm at intervals of 10 cm is required. (Ex 8) In contrast to an agility fence the hurdle should not have side wings. See Ch VI.

A sufficient number of markers and cones to indicate the places of performance must be available. The height of the markers and cones should be approx. 15 cm.

Charts by which the points awarded are shown must be available.

Yellow and red cards must be available, by which the judge can give a warning (yellow card) or indicate disqualification (red card).

#### **Suitable retrieve articles:**

- Three sets of wooden dumbbells that differ in size (and weight) suitable for different sizes of breeds (small, medium and large). Each set includes three dumbbells of the same size. The maximum weight of the dumbbells of the largest set is approximately 450 g (Ex.7).

- Metal dumbbells of three different sizes with a maximum weight of approx. 200 g for the largest. The size of the dumbbell should be in proportion to the size of breed. The handler can choose the preferred size, however (Ex. 8).
- Wooden articles approx. 2 cm x 2 cm x 10 cm. The number of articles needed is six times the number of competing dogs (Ex. 9).

### **III AWARDS**

It is recommended that the colours black – red – yellow be used on ribbons and rosettes to be awarded in obedience classes. Every dog that gets a prize in obedience should be awarded a black – red – yellow ribbon.

A red ribbon is awarded to winners of 1 <sup>st</sup> prize	256 – 320 points.
A blue ribbon is awarded to winners of 2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	224 – under 256 points.
A yellow ribbon is awarded to winners of 3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	192 – under 224 points.
	Excellent
	Very good
	Good

Other colours may be used according to the traditions of the hosting country.

A black – red – yellow rosette is awarded to the best 1<sup>st</sup> prize winner.

If two or more dogs end up with the same number of points and if it is desirable to have a final line-up, the results of exercises 3, 5 and 6 should be added together. If the addition gives the same results, these three exercises should be repeated.

A prize or a rosette is to be given to any dog that achieves the title international obedience champion on the day. Preferably, the colours should display the colours of obedience (black – red – yellow) and include the text “International Obedience Champion”. In addition to this the rosette may also display traditional colours indicating championship such as red and green [e.g. the basic rosette and stripes being green with the smaller rosettes on top displaying the colours of obedience (black – red – yellow)].

#### **International Obedience Certificate CACIOB**

The winning dog (with two testicles if a male) is awarded the CACIOB if it earns the first prize, and the second best dog (with similar restriction) is awarded the reserve CACIOB.

A prize or a rosette is to be given to the dog that is awarded the CACIOB and the one awarded reserve CACIOB. Preferably, the colours should display the colours of obedience (black – red - yellow) and include the colours indicating CACIOB (white) and reserve CACIOB (orange) [e.g., a basic rosette and stripes being white (orange) and the smaller rosettes on top being black – red – yellow colour]. The text CACIOB and reserve CACIOB should also be displayed.

## **International Obedience Champion**

To obtain the title of International Obedience Champion, the dog must earn two CACIOBs in two different countries and achieve at least “Very Good” or better at 15 months or older in an FCI dog show. There must be at least one year and one day between the two CACIOBs.

## **IV GENERAL REGULATIONS AND DIRECTIONS FOR PERFORMING AND JUDGING THE EXERCISES**

If not otherwise stated in the individual exercises, these general regulations and directions for performing the exercises and for judging them are applied to all exercises.

If incidents occur that are not covered in these regulations and directions, the judge decides how to proceed or how to evaluate. The judge’s decision is final and no competitor shall impugn the decisions of the judge.

### **Points awarded**

The obedience performances are graded as follows:  
0 – 5 – 5.5 – 6 – 6.5 – 7 – 7.5 – 8 – 8.5 – 9 – 9.5 – 10.

Disqualification leads to termination of the performance and loss of all points awarded. The dog may not continue with the remaining exercises of the competition.

Failing an exercise leads to loss of all points in the specific exercise. The dog may continue with the remaining exercises.

The yellow card indicates a warning. The judge can give a warning on the basis of the handler’s or dog’s actions. If the judge shows a yellow card twice disqualification follows.

The red card indicates disqualification.

### **Performing the exercises**

- The judge can choose in what order the exercises are performed. The order should be the same for all competitors.
- The exercises begin and end with the dog in heel position. The heel position is defined as the sitting position at the handler’s left side.
- The dog should be on the handler’s left side between the exercises. If a dog leaves the ring during or between the exercises it is disqualified.

- The handler must leave the dog's leash outside the ring or at the steward's table. This applies to all exercises.
- All exercises begin when the steward has placed the handler and dog at the starting place and position and the handler has confirmed that they are ready to start. All exercises are over when the steward has announced "exercise ended". It is not allowed to point out places and directions to the dog before or during exercises (other than those relating to the ongoing exercise, if such are allowed). Such activity will lead to failure of the exercise.
- The command words given in these regulations are recommendations. Other sufficiently short words are acceptable.
- Tit-bits or playing tools such as balls or toys are not allowed in the ring, neither during nor between exercises. If the judge observes that a competitor has or uses tit-bits or playing tools in the ring, he or she will be disqualified.
- The handler is not allowed to touch the dog or stroke it or give other forms of encouragement during the exercises. Such behaviour will result in failure of the exercise. Slight encouragement (e.g., saying "well done" or giving one or two gentle pats) is allowed after the exercise has been completed. In the case of excessive encouragement, enthusiastic inspiring, playing around, jumping into the arms of the handler, threading around the handler's legs, etc., the judge will warn the competitor by showing a yellow card. In the case of a second incident the judge shows a red card and the dog is disqualified.
- The judge has the right to halt an exercise if the dog shows obvious incapability to perform it. Such an exercise is failed.
- The judge has the right to bar a dog from further participation in the competition if it isn't functioning properly or if it is causing a disturbance by continuous barking or whining. In case of barking or whining the judge can give a first warning with the yellow card. If the behaviour continues the judge will disqualify the dog and show the red card. The same holds for continuous disturbance by barking or whining between exercises.
- If the dog leaves the handler during an exercise (interrupts the exercise) and is out of control, the handler may call the dog once without leaving his or her position. If the dog returns to the handler on the first command, the judge will show a yellow card and the exercise is failed, but dog and handler can continue with the next exercise. If the dog does not return on the first command, dog and handler are disqualified. If the dog leaves a second time, disqualification follows.
- If the dog leaves the handler between exercises the handler may call his dog once without leaving his position. If the dog returns the judge will show a yellow card. If the dog does not return or if it leaves a second time, disqualification follows.

- In the recall exercise (Ex. 5) the dog is allowed to come and sit in front of the handler. The dog must then, on command (after permission from the steward), quickly take its heel position, passing the handler very closely.
- In all retrieving exercises (Ex. 7, 8 and 9), the dog is allowed to sit in front of the handler and there deliver the article on command (after permission from the steward). The dog must then, on command (after permission from the steward), quickly take its heel position, passing the handler very closely.
- In the retrieving and recall exercises, the judge does not need to know how it was intended that the exercise be performed with regards to taking the heel position directly or after sitting in front. If the exercise is elegantly performed, full points can be awarded regardless of what was intended.
- In exercises where commands or signals are allowed, the handler must inform the judge before the exercise commences if signals will be used. This is not necessary if both commands and signals are allowed.

### Judging the exercises

- Judging of an exercise starts after the handler has confirmed readiness to the steward's question "Are you ready?" Judging of an exercise ends when the steward announces "End of exercise".
- All extra commands, double commands, body language, etc., must be penalised. The general rule is that for a second command 2 points should be deducted and a third command fails the exercise (or a part of it).
- A dog that barks, even occasionally in an exercise, should be penalised. Not more than 7 should be awarded in the case of occasional barking, and if the dog barks extensively or continuously the exercise is failed. If the barking is continuous and is repeated in several exercises the performance is disqualified. The same holds for whining.
- If the handler takes steps when giving commands, the exercise is failed.
- If a dog anticipates the command when starting the exercise, i.e. does not keep the heel position properly, not more than 8 points can be awarded.
- If the dog leaves the handler after the exercise has started but before the command of the handler, the exercise is failed. There is no possibility to recall.
- If the handler punishes the dog during the exercise, the exercise is failed. The judge may show a yellow card. If punishing can be interpreted as grave, during or between exercises, dog and handler are disqualified.
- If the dog cleans itself during an exercise or between exercises it is disqualified.

## **V. EXERCISES IN THE INTERNATIONAL OBEDIENCE CLASS**

Rules and instructions for the performance and judging of the exercises

### **EXERCISE 1 – Sitting in a group for 2 minutes.**

**Commands:** “Sit”, “Stay”

**Performance:** The dogs are sitting in heel position in a row at approx. 3 metres distance from each other. When told, the handlers leave the dogs and walk out of sight of the dogs and stay hidden for 2 minutes. When 2 minutes have elapsed, the handlers are instructed to walk back into the ring and take a standing position inside the ring. The handlers are then told to walk up beside their dog so that the dog is in heel position. There should be at least three dogs in a group, but not more than six.

**Directions:** A dog that stands up, lies down or moves/creeps more than its own body length gets 0 points. All moving reduces points. If the dog barks 1-2 times, 1-2 points are withdrawn; if it barks most of the time, the exercise is failed (0 points). Restlessness, such as shifting weight from one side or one foot to another, should be penalised. The dog is allowed to turn its head and look around, and it is allowed to show interest if there is distraction or noise inside or outside the ring. This, however, should not give an appearance of restlessness or anxiety. If the dog lies down or stands up after the two-minute period is over and the handler has already reached the inside of the ring, not more than 5 points can be awarded. If a dog stands up and goes close to another dog, so that there is fear for a fight, the exercise must be stopped and then resumed for all dogs except the dog that caused the disturbance.

It is recommended that the area outside the ring in front of the dogs is a closed area (no outsiders besides personnel are allowed) during this exercise. In the EW and WW competitions this arrangement is obligatory.

**Coeff. : 3**

**Max. points 30**

### **EXERCISE 2 – Lying in a group for 4 minutes with distractions**

**Commands:** “Down”, “Stay”, “Sit”

**Performance:** The dogs are sitting in heel position in a row at approx. 3 metres distance from each other. The lying down on command from heel position is performed one by one. The dogs should be commanded to lie down from left to right and to sit up from right to left so that the first to lie down is the last to sit up and vice versa. The steward tells when to give the command. The handlers walk out of sight of the dogs together and stay hidden for 4 minutes. The dogs stay lying down and are subjected to distractions, for example a person weaving between the dogs. When 4 minutes has elapsed, the handlers are instructed to walk together back into the ring and take a standing position approx. 3 metres behind their dog.

The handlers are then instructed to walk up beside their dog and told, one by one, to command their dog to heel position. There should be at least three dogs in a group but not more than six.

**Directions:** A dog that stands or sits while the handlers are out of sight or crawls more than its own body length fails the exercise (0 points). All movement should clearly reduce points. If the dog barks 1-2 times, 1-2 points are deducted; if it barks most of the time, the exercise is failed (0 points). Restlessness, such as shifting weight from one side to another, should be penalised. The dog is allowed to turn its head and look around, and it is allowed to show interest if there is distraction or noise inside or outside the ring. This must not give an appearance of restlessness or anxiety, however. If a dog stands up and goes close to another dog, so that there is fear for a fight, the exercise must be stopped and then resumed for all dogs except the dog that caused the disturbance.

No more than 7 points can be awarded if a dog lies on its side (flank).

If the dog sits or stands up after the four-minute period is over and the handler has already reached the inside of the ring, not more than 5 points can be awarded.

It is recommended that the area outside the ring in front of the dogs is a closed area (only personnel are allowed) during this exercise. In the EW and WW competitions this arrangement is obligatory.

**Coeff. : 2**

**Max. points 20**

### **EXERCISE 3 – Heelwork**

**Command:** “Heel”

**Performance:** Heelwork is tested at different speeds in conjunction with directions, turns and turnabouts. The unleashed dog should willingly follow the handler, walking on the handler’s left side, with the shoulder level with the handler’s left knee and following the handler in a parallel line. The handler should move his arms in a natural way during the exercise.

Heelwork shall be tested in normal, slow and quick pace together with turns, turnabouts and halts. The handler can choose to do the turnabouts to the left or the right. The “German turnabout” is equally acceptable, i.e., the dog is allowed to circle around the handler on the right side, but very tightly. The dog must also be tested when the handler moves two or three steps in different directions from standing position, and when the handler makes turns and turnabouts from the standing position.

All dogs in one test or competition should do the heelwork according to the same scheme.

The heel command may be given at every start, when changing speed, when taking steps in different directions from standing position and at turns and turnabouts from the standing position. When the handler stops, the dog shall take the heel position immediately and without command.

**Directions:** A dog that leaves the handler or follows the handler at a distance of more than half a metre during the major part of the exercise is failed. If the dog moves slowly, only 6-7 points should be given. Lack of contact and extra commands are mistakes. An imperfect direction (not parallel) of the heel position should result in loss of about 2 points.

**Coeff. : 3**

**Max. points : 30**

#### **EXERCISE 4 – Stand, sit and down under march**

**Commands:** “Stand”, “Sit”, “Down”, “Heel” (4 times)

**Performance:** The exercise is performed under march around a 8 m x 8 m square counter-clockwise, so that left turns will be taken at the corners. Under the march the handler commands, on instruction of the steward, the dog to a standing, sitting and down position. Cones in the corner mark the square.

The starting point for the march is in the middle of one of the sides of the square (the first side). The steward will instruct the handler to command the dog to a standing position when they have reached the middle (approximately) of the next (second) side while the handler continues his walk around the square. Upon reaching the dog again, the handler gives the heel command under march. The exercise continues so that correspondingly the handler commands the dog to sit in the middle of the third side and to down position in the middle of the fourth side. The exercise will end when they reach the starting point once more.

The stand, sit and down positions should be parallel to the imaginary lines of the square and ca. 0,5 m from the imaginary lines taking the size of the dog into consideration. The corners should be 90°, not rounded off.

**Directions:** If the dog stops once in a wrong position (e.g., sitting instead of down), not more than 7 points can be awarded. If the dog misses one position (does not stop at all), not more that 6 points can be awarded.

To get any points for a given position the dog should not move more than one body length after the command, and take the commanded position (stand, sit, down) before the handler has passed the next corner of square. To get points for the exercise, at least two positions must be performed. In judging, attention should also be paid to the heelwork. Moving slowly, bad heelwork and rounded corners are mistakes.

**Coeff. : 3**

**Max. points : 30**

## **EXERCISE 5 – Recall with stand and down**

**Commands:** “Down”, “Stay”, “Come” (3 times), “Stand”, “Down” OR hand signals.

**Performance:** The dog is placed in down position and the handler walks approx. 30 – 35 m in the indicated direction. On permission from the steward, the handler recalls the dog. The handler orders the dog to stand when the dog has covered approx. one third of the distance. When told, the handler recalls the dog again. Having covered approx. two thirds of the distance, the dog is ordered to lie down. After the second stop and on permission from the steward, the handler calls the dog to heel position. The steward tells the handler only when to recall the dog. The handler gives the stop commands independently at the markers (cones). Oral commands and hand signals may be mixed so that an oral command may be used at one position and a hand signal at another, but not simultaneously. The dog’s name may be combined with the first recall command, but name and command must be well combined together and may not give the impression of two separate commands.

**Directions:** It is important that the dog responds willingly to all recall commands. The dog should move at good speed and keep its pace, at least a fast trot. Slow movement is a mistake. The breed should be taken into consideration in judging the speed. The dog should at once, on command, begin its stop. When evaluating the stop, the speed of the dog should also be considered. There can be some tolerance on the actual stopping for fast dogs, but not for slow dogs. To get full points (for a stop) not more than one body length can be exceeded from the time of command to the stop. To obtain any points (for a stop) not more than 3 body lengths can be exceeded. If more than 3 recall commands are given, the highest score is 6. A third recall on a single position results in failure of the exercise.

If the dog misses one position (i.e., does not stop within the limit) no more than 6 points can be awarded. If there is no attempt to stop at one of the positions, not more than 5 points can be awarded. If the dog fails to stop at both positions, or takes the positions in an opposite order, the exercise is failed. If the dog stops once in a wrong position not more than 7 points can be awarded. If the dog sits or stands up before the first recall command, not more than 7 points can be given. If the dog moves more than one body length before the first recall command, the exercise is failed.

**Coeff. : 4**

**Max. points : 40**

## **EXERCISE 6 - Send away with directions, down and recall**

**Commands:** “Forward”, “Stand”, “Right/Left” and/or arm signal (“Stop”), “Down”, “Come”.

**Performance:** The dog is sent to a cone (small, preferably a half sphere) approx. 10 m from the starting point and is commanded to stand by the cone. The dog should take its stand position within a circle of 2-meter radius drawn about the cone. After approximately 3 seconds, the handler is told to direct the dog to a 3 m x 3 m square at approx. 25 metres from the starting point.

The square should be situated approx. 3 – 5 meters from the ringside border. Cones mark the square at each corner. Visible lines (e.g., tape, chalk lines) should connect the cones on their outer side. When the dog reaches the square, the handler commands the dog down. When told, the handler walks towards the dog. Approximately 2 m from the dog, the handler is told to turn, and after approx. 10 m to turn again and walk towards the starting point. After another 10 m the handler is told to recall the dog while continuing to walk towards the starting point.

The dog should move in a straight line to the cone and to the square and should enter the square from the front. The angle between the connecting lines of the starting point and the cone, and between the cone and the middle of the square should be 90°.

See Figure in Chapter VI.

**Directions:** The dog's willingness to follow directions and commands, the dog's tempo and straight routes should be emphasised. To get 10 points, the handler should not use more than 6 commands during this exercise, the sixth command being a stop command in the square. The dog must follow the commands (e.g., if a stand command is given in the square). An option is to use only the down command when the dog has entered the square and thus use only five commands.

If the dog acts on his own, this is penalised. This means that for example the "stand" command by the cone and "down" command in the square have to be given. If the handler moves forward (takes steps in any direction) while giving the commands, the exercise is failed (0 points). If there is excess action (body language) from the handler, not more than 8 points should be given. The dog should have all four feet within the circle before the handler is told to direct the dog to the square. A dog that takes a sitting or down position by the cone should not be awarded more than 8 points. If the dog sits or lies down outside the circle or if the dog lies down outside the square the exercise is failed. If the dog is already down, no redirecting command is allowed. To get points, the dog's whole body, except for the tail, must be in the square.

The exercise is failed if the dog rises to sit or stand before the handler's second turn. Not more than 5 points can be awarded if the dog rises (to sit or stand) after the handler's second turn before it is recalled. If the dog moves in the square without rising, not more than 7 points can be awarded. If it moves and crosses the border before recall, the exercise is failed. If the dog moves very slowly, only about 6 points should be given.

A second recall, stop or down command is penalised (- 2 points/command). The exercise is failed if even one these commands has to be given a third time. The penalty for extra directing commands depends on their strength and the dog's willingness to obey the commands.

It is not allowed to show the dog directions at the starting point or to show the square to the dog before the exercise. These lead to failing the exercise.

**Coeff. : 4**

**Max. points : 40**

## **EXERCISE 7 – Directed retrieve**

**Command:** “Forward”, “Stand”, “Right/left” and/or arm signal, “Retrieve”, “Release”

**Performance:** Three wooden dumbbells of the same size are placed in a row approx. 5 m apart from each other so that they are easily seen. The starting point is approx. 20 m from the central dumbbell. The dog is sent to a cone situated approx. 10 m from the starting point. The dog is commanded to stand at the cone, within about 2 m distance from it. After about 3 seconds, the handler is told to direct the dog to either the right or the left dumbbell, determined by draw, and the dog should retrieve and deliver it correctly.

The steward places the three dumbbells after it has been determined by draw, which one is to be retrieved. (The central dumbbell is never drawn.) The dumbbell that is drawn (left or right) is always set down first. During this procedure the handler and the dog stand at the starting point facing the central dumbbell at a distance of approx. 20 m.

Three sizes of dumbbells should be available (max. about 450g), suitable for different breeds. The size of the dumbbell should be in relation to the size of the dog but the handler is free to choose the size.

**Directions:** Emphasis should be on the dog's willingness to follow the directive commands, the dog's tempo and its taking the shortest way to the correct dumbbell. Showing the dog directions at the starting point will be judged as touching the dog and lead to failing of the exercise. To obtain points for this exercise, the dog should stand at the cone within a circle of a radius of 2 m drawn about the cone. A dog that lies down or sits at the cone, can not get more than 8 points.

Chewing or biting on the dumbbell must be penalised by a reduction in points to 7 or less. If chewing is extensive not more than 5 points should be awarded. Very extensive chewing or breaking the dumbbell results in failing the exercise (0 points). No penalty should be given, however, if the dog once takes a better grip on the dumbbell.

If the dog picks up the wrong dumbbell, the exercise is failed (0 points).

### *Dropping the dumbbell:*

If the dog drops the dumbbell but picks it up on its own initiative, not more than 7 points can be awarded. If an extra “retrieve” command has to be given, the maximum is 5 points. If the dog drops the dumbbell beside the handler and the handler picks it up without taking a step, 5 points can be awarded.

The penalty for extra directing commands depends on their strength and the dog's willingness to obey the commands. The penalty for other extra commands should be congruent with the general directions and with exercise 6.

**Coeff. : 3**

**Max. points : 30**

## **EXERCISE 8 – Jumping a hurdle and retrieving a metal object**

**Command:** “Jump”, “Retrieve” and “Release”.

**Performance:** The handler is placed in front of a hurdle at approx. 3 m from the hurdle, with the dog in heel position. The handler throws a metal dumbbell over the hurdle. When instructed, the handler commands the dog to jump over the hurdle, retrieve the dumbbell and jump back. Three different sizes (and weights) of metal dumbbells must be available, in proportion to the sizes of the dogs. The maximum weight of the largest dumbbell is approx. 200 g. It is, however, the handler’s choice which dumbbell he or she selects, regardless of the size the dog. The hurdle should be 1 m. wide and approximately as high as the dog at the withers, rounded up to the closest 10 cm. It should never be more than 1 m high.

**Directions:** The “retrieve” command should not be given later than when the dog starts its jump. If the dog touches the hurdle even slightly when jumping, the maximum score is 8 points. If the dog supports itself on the hurdle or if it does not jump back, the exercise is failed.

*Dropping the article:*

If the dog drops the article but picks it up on its own initiative, not more than 7 points can be awarded. If an extra “retrieve” command has to be given, the maximum is 5 points. If the dog drops the article beside the handler and the handler picks it up without taking a step, 5 points can be awarded.

Chewing or biting on the article is penalised by a reduction in points to 7 or less. If chewing is extensive not more than 5 points can be awarded. Very extensive chewing or breaking the article results in failing the exercise (0 points). No penalty should be given, however, if the dog once takes a better grip on the article.

**Coeff. : 3**

**Max. points : 30**

## **EXERCISE 9 - Scent and retrieve**

**Commands:** “Seek/retrieve”, “Release”

**Performance:** Just before the start of this exercise the steward gives the handler a wooden retrieve article (10 cm x 2 cm x 2 cm), which the handler marks with his or her start number. The handler can keep the marked article in his/her hand for approx. 5 s. The dog is not allowed to touch or scent the article at this stage. The steward tells the handler to turn around and the handler then hands over the article to the steward. The handler decides whether the dog does or does not see when the objects are positioned. The steward walks to place the handler’s article, without touching it, together with 5 similar articles on the ground or floor at a distance of about 10 metres from the handler. The steward touches the other five articles and places them by hand. The articles are placed in a circle or horizontal line at a distance of approx. 25 cm from each other. The handler is then told to turn around and command the dog to retrieve the marked article. The dog should find the handler’s article, retrieve it and deliver it to the handler in accordance with the general directions.

The articles should be placed in the same pattern for all competitors, but the position of the handler's article may vary. In case of a horizontal line the handler's article should not be in an outside position, however.

The dog should be allowed to work approximately half a minute if the working is active and goal driven. There should be six new articles for each competitor.

**Directions:** Emphasis should be on the dog's willingness to work and its speed. The exercise is also failed, if the dog is allowed to scent or touch the article before it is handed back to the steward, if commands are given when the dog is at the articles, or if the dog picks up the wrong article.

Chewing or biting on the article is penalised by a reduction in points to 7 or less. If chewing is extensive not more than 5 points can be awarded. Very extensive chewing or breaking the article results in failing the exercise (0 points). No penalty should be given, however, if the dog once takes a better grip on the article.

*Dropping the article:*

If the dog drops the article, but picks it up on its own initiative, not more than 7 points can be awarded. If an extra "retrieve" command has to be given, the maximum is 5 points. If the dog drops the article beside the handler and the handler picks it up without taking a step, 5 points can be awarded.

**Coeff. : 3**

**Max. points : 30**

### **EXERCISE 10 – Distant control**

**Commands:** "Down" "stay", "Sit", "Stand", "Down" and /or hand signals.

**Performance :** The dog is set in down position at a predetermined place. When instructed, the handler leaves the dog and moves to an assigned place approx. 15 m from the dog. The dog should change positions 6 times (stand/sit/down) and remain in its original place. The order of taking the positions can vary, but should be the same for all competitors. Each position should be done twice and the last command for changing position should be "down". The steward shows the handler, with written signs, in which order the dog should change position. The steward should not be able to see the dog when displaying the instructions. The steward should change the sign about every 3 seconds. The handler may use both voice commands and hand signals, but they must be short and used simultaneously. A boundary is marked in front or back of the dog by an imaginary line connecting two markers.

**Directions :** Emphasis should be on how much the dog moves, the speed at which positions are changed, the clearness of the positions and how well the positions are held. To get any points, the dog should not move in total more than its body length from the starting point (in any direction). Back and forth movements are summed. If the dog misses one position of the six, not more than 7 points should be given. However, if the dog jumps over one position and takes the next position, the exercise is failed.

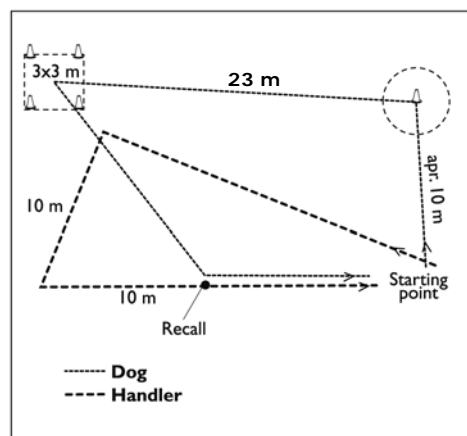
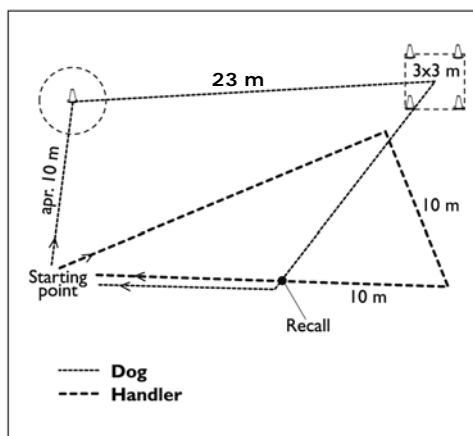
The dog has to change position at least 5 times to get points. If the dog sits up before the handler returns, not more than 8 points should be given. Extensive use of voice and exaggerated or continuous hand signals are penalised.

**Coeff. : 4**

**Max. points : 40**

## VI SUPPLEMENTAL DRAWINGS

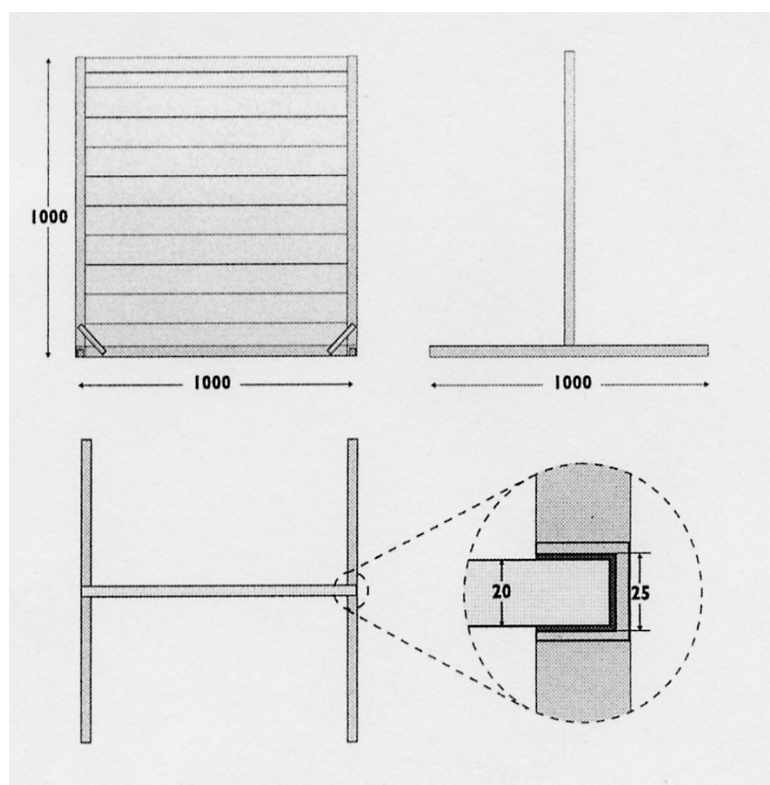
### EXERCISE 6 - Send away with directions, down and recall



The quantities are approximations. The distance between the starting point and the middle of the square is 25 m and thus the distance between the cone and the middle of the square is 23 m. The angle between the connecting lines of the starting point and the cone, and between the cone and the middle of the square is approximately  $90^\circ$ .

### EXERCISE 8 – Jumping a hurdle and retrieving a metal object

Recommendation for the construction of the hurdle



## **VII ARRANGING AND JUDGING FCI EURO AND WORLD WINNER COMPETITIONS**

The relevant rules and directions of the international obedience class must be followed.

In case of a possible complaint against the judging during European and World Winner competitions any decision made by the judges who judged the dogs in question is final and undisputable.

### **1. Annual Winner Competition**

An annual FCI European or World Winner competition is arranged in obedience. The competition is preferably arranged in connection with the FCI European or World Winner Dog Shows. If the World Winner Dog Show is in Europe there will be no European Winner competition.

The FCI Obedience Commission will deal with matters that are exceptions to the above mentioned principles and other questions that have not been dealt with in these regulations for EW and WW competitions. Such can be for example when and where to arrange a Winner Competition if the FCI European or World Winner Dog Shows are not able to provide the premises or the work contribution.

### **2. Judges**

Judges at FCI European (EW) and World Winner (WW) competitions must understand English and speak it fluently and have broad experience in judging obedience. Preferably they should have the status of international judge. All commands and instructions at European and World Winner competitions must be given (by the steward) in English.

The judging team at EW and WW competitions consists of three judges: one from northern, one from central and one from southern Europe. One of these judges is the referee judge (chief judge). The referee judge should preferably be from the host country. All judges in an EW or WW competition are to be invited in consultation with the FCI Obedience Commission.

The referee judge is the chairman of the judging team and acts as chairman for the judges' meeting and for any meetings arranged with the team leaders or competitors. The referee judge, together with the chief steward, is responsible for the arrangements of the competition.

The referee judge approves the practical arrangements for the competition and decides whether it is necessary to repeat or terminate an exercise e.g., due to technical problems, excessive disturbance, or if a dog is not functioning.

The referee judge gives the press permission to take pictures or films and decides where the press can stand without causing disturbance to the dogs. The press is not allowed in the ring.

### Ineligibility due to the likelihood of bias

Judges are not permitted to judge family members as handlers, or dogs owned by themselves, family members or relatives such as children, parents, grandparents, grandchildren, brothers, sisters or in-laws. Neither are they allowed to judge household members or residents of their household.

If a judge has bred a dog or had a dog for training, or if a dog has been living in the judge's household within one year of the competition he or she can not act as judge in this competition.

Matters of ineligibility should be dealt with within two weeks of the latest entry date.

### **3. Stewards and personnel**

For FCI European and World Winner competitions in Obedience, there should be at least three stewards: one chief steward, one to help inside the ring and one to call for the competitors and deal with other matters outside the ring. If two stewards are conducting exercises inside the ring, the same steward should conduct the same exercises for the competitors.

A sufficient amount of other personnel should be available: secretaries to write down the results, clerks to calculate results and display them, etc.

Judges, stewards and ring personnel should dress appropriately to the prestige of the competition.

### **4. Number of competitors, eligibility to compete and represent a country**

The minimum age of handlers in EW & WW competitions is 15 years.

Only the official representatives of a country may enter and that entry can be accepted only through a Kennel Club that is affiliated with the FCI.

Only dogs registered with the studbooks of the member organisations (vs "waiting list" or "appendix") will be allowed to take part in any FCI championship.

The maximum number of entries per day in the FCI European and World Winner Competitions is 25 dogs. The European and World Winner Competition will be a three-day competition with a maximum of 75 entries.

The number of competitors per country in the national teams must not exceed six. All six competitors must be appointed beforehand. Two reserve dogs can be appointed to the team. The results of the three best competitors count for the team results. A reserve can replace a team member if the dog or handler is taken ill before the competition begins. Once the competition is under way a replacement can be made only if a vet or doctor verifies the illness of handler or dog. Once a dog has started its exercises, the reserve can under no circumstances take its place.

If there is sufficient room in the competition, every country (kennel club) can enter an extra dog or even two. In order to do this, the kennel club must submit its "ranking list" for the extra dogs. The extra competitors should be notified within two weeks of the last day for announcing entries that they can enter.

#### Eligibility requirements for members of a national team at FCI events:

The effective FCI requirements for handlers/owners and dogs to compete for a national team have to be followed.

#### Handler

- Must have the nationality of the country he/she wants to represent or, alternatively,
- Must have acquired the nationality of the country he/she wants to represent

If a handler has a double nationality, he/she can choose either country without any restriction. If difficulties arise, they must be referred to the FCI General Committee for final settlement

#### Dog

- Must be born and must live in the country for which it will compete (1<sup>st</sup> and only registration number must be from the stud book of the national kennel club of the country for which the dog will be competing) or alternatively
- In case of export, must have been registered with the stud book of the national organisation for which it will compete for a minimum of 12 months

### **Effective January 1<sup>st</sup> 2007**

#### Owner

Must have the nationality of the country for which his/her dog will compete or must have his/her résidence habituelle for a minimum of 12 months in the country for which his/her dog will compete

If the owner has a double nationality, he/she can choose either country without any restriction. If difficulties arise, they must be referred to the FCI General Committee for final settlement

#### Dog

Must have been registered with the studbook of the country for which it will compete for a minimum of 12 months

#### Handler

No matter his/her nationality, the handler will not be allowed to compete for more than one country and will be authorized to handle a maximum of 4 dogs.

Any difficulties that arise should be referred to the FCI General Committee for settlement.

## **5. Information on special regulations of the host country**

The host country must clearly indicate on the entry form any special regulations or restrictions of the country regarding participation in competitions or entering the country. The detailed information should be unambiguous and generously available.

**These rules and directions are effective from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006.**

**These rules and regulations have been approved by the FCI General Committee, Buenos Aires, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2005.**