

OBEDIENCE BRIEFS

The AKC states that "the basic objective of obedience trials is to produce dogs that have been trained to behave in the home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs, in a manner that will reflect credit on the sport of obedience at all times and under all conditions".

The following information is from the AKC Obedience Regulations booklet. This booklet is available free of charge (for one copy) by contacting the AKC. It is also often available at dog shows. The booklet is very detailed. Anyone interested in showing your dog should become familiar with this resource.

To be eligible to compete in obedience trials, a dog must be:

- Registered with the AKC
- Listed with the AKC Purebred Alternative Listing/Indefinite Listing Privilege (PAL/ILP)
- Listed with the AKC Canine Partners program
- Be a Foundation Stock Service (FSS) recorded breed
- 6 months of age or older

For Novice (CD), Open (CDX) and Utility (UD) titles, a dog must receive a qualifying score by two different judges at three licensed obedience trials. The total possible score is 200. To qualify, a dog must receive at least 170 points and not lose more than 1/2 the allotted points in any one exercise. Various mistakes deduct points ranging from minor to substantial to non-qualifying.

Beginner Novice (BN) - Optional Titling Class

The exercises and maximum scores in the Beginner Novice classes include:

- Heel on Leash ~ 40 points
- Figure Eight ~ 40 points
- Sit for Exam ~ 40 points
- Sit Stay ~ 40 points
- Recall ~ 40 points

Most of the exercises are conducted on leash.

Novice Obedience (CD) Class

The Companion Dog title is awarded when a dog has received three qualifying scores under two different judges.

The maximum possible scores for the Novice class exercises are as follows:

- Heel on Lead and Figure 8 ~ 40 points
- Stand for Exam ~ 30 points
- Heel Free ~ 40 points
- Recall and Finish ~ 30 points
- Long Sit (one minute) ~ 30 points
- Long Down (three minutes) ~ 30 points

Graduate Novice (GN) - Optional Titling Class

The Graduate Novice class is for dogs that have not won the Graduate Novice (GN) title. The Graduate Novice class is an optional class that may be offered by clubs at obedience events. Judges for this class must be approved to judge Novice or higher classes. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. If eligible as defined in these regulations, dogs entered in Graduate Novice may also be entered in any other obedience class.

The letters GN may be added after the name of each dog that has been certified by three different judges to have received qualifying scores in Graduate Novice classes at three licensed or member obedience trials.

The letters GN may be added after the name of each dog that has received three qualifying scores under two different judges in Graduate Novice classes at three licensed or member obedience trials.

The maximum possible scores for the Graduate Novice class exercises are as follows:

- Heal on Leash and Figure Eight (off leash) ~ 40 points
- Drop on Recall ~ 40 points
- Dumbbell Recall ~ 30 points
- Recall Over High Jump ~ 30 points
- Recall Over Broad Jump ~ 30 points
- Long Down ~ 30 points

Open Obedience (CDX) Class

The Companion Dog Excellent Title is awarded when a dog has received three qualifying scores under two different judges.

The maximum possible scores for the Open class exercises are as follows:

- Heel Free and Figure 8 ~ 40 points
- Drop on Recall ~ 30 points
- Retrieve on Flat ~ 20 points
- Retrieve over High Jump ~ 30 points
- Broad Jump ~ 20 points
- Long Sit Out of Sight (three minute) ~ 30 points
- Long Down Out of Sight (five minutes) ~ 30 points

Graduate Open (GO) - Optional Titling Class

The Graduate Open class is for dogs that have not won the Graduate Open (GO) title. The Graduate Open class is an optional class that may be offered by clubs at obedience events. Judges for this class must be approved to judge Open or higher classes. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. The exercises for this class included:

- Signal Exercise - 40 points
- Scent Discrimination - 30 points
- Directed Retrieve - 30 points
- Moving Stand and Examination - 30 points
- Go Out - 30 points

- Directed Jumping - 40 points

Utility Obedience (UD) Class

The Utility Dog (UD) title is awarded when a dog has received three qualifying scores under two different judges.

The maximum possible scores for the Utility class exercises are as follows:

- Signal Exercise ~ 40 points
- Scent Discrimination, Article 1 ~ 30 points
- Scent Discrimination, Article 2 ~ 30 points
- Directed Retrieve ~ 30 points
- Moving Stand and Examination ~ 30points
- Directed Jumping ~ 40 points

Versatility (VER) - Optional Titling Class

The Versatility Class is an Optional Titling Class offered for all dogs. Six exercises are performed: two each from the Novice, Open and Utility classes. There are no group exercises in Versatility. The judge decides the combination of exercises which is not disclosed until it is posted at the ring. Each handler must provide a dumbbell, scent discrimination articles and directed retrieve gloves.

The exercises and maximum scores:

- Novice exercise 1 = 25 points
- Novice exercise 2 = 25 points
- Open exercise 1 = 35 points
- Open exercise 2 = 35 points
- Utility exercise 1 = 40 points
- Utility exercise 2 = 40 points

Versatility Combinations:

V1: Stand for exam, recall, drop on recall, broad jump, signal exercise, directed retrieve

V2: Heel on leash and figure eight, recall, retrieve on flat, broad jump, moving stand for exam, directed retrieve

V3: Stand for exam, recall, drop on recall, retrieve over high jump, signal exercise, directed jumping

V4: Novice heel free, recall, retrieve on flat, retrieve over high jump, moving stand for exam, directed jumping

V5: Stand for exam, recall, heel free and figure eight, retrieve on flat, scent discrimination, directed jumping

V6: Stand for exam, recall, figure eight and heel free, retrieve over high jump, directed retrieve, directed jumping

V7: Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, Stand for Exam, Drop on Recall, Retrieve Over High Jump, Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve

V8: Stand for Exam, Recall, Retrieve on Flat, Broad Jump, Signal Exercise, Moving Stand and Exam

V9: Novice Heel Free, Stand for Exam, Drop on Recall, Broad Jump, Scent Discrimination, Moving Stand and Exam

V10: Stand for Exam, Recall, Figure Eight and Heel Free, Retrieve on Flat, Scent Discrimination, Directed Jumping

V11: Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, Recall, Retrieve Over High Jump, Broad Jump, Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve

V12: Novice Heel Free, Stand for Exam, Drop on Recall, Broad Jump, Moving Stand and Exam, Directed Retrieve

The letters VER may be added after the name of each dog that has been certified by two different judges to have received qualifying scores in Versatility classes at three licensed or member obedience trials. That dog will receive a certificate from the AKC. Dogs that have earned the Versatility Title may continue to compete in this class.