

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (FCI) (AISBL)

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RULES & GUIDELINES for OBEDIENCE TRIALS for CLASSES 1 & 2 & 3

*The rules and guidelines for Class 3 are used in
international obedience competitions (**FCI-CACIOB**)
and
in **FCI** championship competitions*



These Regulations were approved by the FCI General Committee on April 27 2021.

The changes in bold and blue characters were approved by the FCI General Committee on the occasion of its online meeting in September 2020.

Effective from January 1st 2022

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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 dog and 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.

These rules and guidelines have been compiled to promote the sport of obedience and to support competitive obedience across national borders.

These rules and guidelines are applied at obedience trials in countries in which the national canine organisations have chosen to follow them.

In international trials with **FCI-CACIOB** as well as **FCI** Championship competitions such as **FCI** World Winner Championship competitions, the Class 3 rules must be followed from 1.1.2022.

Results from other obedience trials with slightly different performances, but which meet the corresponding requirements should be acknowledged.

I RULES CONCERNING ARRANGING, PARTICIPATING IN, MANAGING AND JUDGING OBEDIENCE TRIALS AND COMPETITIONS

1. Arranging official obedience trials and competitions

Each national FCI member decides which clubs and organizations are authorized to arrange official obedience trials and competitions in their country.

2. National rules and guidelines concerning obedience trials

It is recommended that the national canine organisations publish on their website all necessary information concerning their national rules, special national requirements, details of their legislation that apply to animals entering their country and trials, as well as details such as entry fees and bank accounts, so that competing throughout all FCI member nations can be promoted. It is recommended that the handlers entering a competition should be informed of all necessary details concerning the competition and special national requirements in a memo sent to them (data sheet).

3. Eligibility to participate in participate in obedience classes

Eligibility to participate in participate in obedience classes is defined by the regulations of the dog's home country and those of the country where the competition takes place. The national rules state which dogs are allowed to compete in obedience trials (Classes 1 & 2 & 3). Eligibility conditions for competing should be published on the website of the country concerned.

The age at which Class 1 can be entered should be stated in the national rules of each country. The dog should, however, be at least 10 months old, if a higher age is not specified by the national rules of the country where the competition is arranged or the country in which the dog is registered. When entering Class 3 the dog should be at least 15 months old.

It is up to every country to decide which national obedience classes are recognized and what requirements need to be fulfilled before a dog is allowed competing in a certain class. To participate in an international obedience competition (with FCI-CACIOB), however, both the handler and the dog together should at least have passed the previous highest obedience class with a grade excellent and thus have the right to move up (Class 2 or a class with corresponding exercises) in their own country.

It is up to each country to decide how many times a dog may enter a class after having received its first grade "excellent" (1st prize) in the class in question. *This information should be available on the national canine organisation's www-pages.*

If a dog has once entered a certain class level, the national obedience rules should describe the circumstances under which moving back down to a lower class is allowed. *This information should be available on the national canine organisation's www-pages.*

3.1 Health

Dogs that are blind, suffer from contagious diseases or infections or have hookworms, scabies or any other vermin, as well as dogs that are aggressive, may not participate in obedience trials. Dogs that are taped, stitched, or bandaged are not allowed to participate.

3.2 Antidoping and vaccination regulations

National vaccination regulations and antidoping regulations applying both in the dog's home country and in the country where the trial takes place must be followed. *National regulations concerning vaccination and antidoping regulations should be published on the website.*

3.3 Aggressiveness

Aggressive dogs are not allowed to enter the competition premises. The judge will disqualify any dog which attacks or attempts to attack a person or another dog. The incident is noted in the dog's working book and a report must be sent to the national canine organisation that the dog represents and the national canine organisation of the arranging country.

3.4 Bitches in season and bitches in breeding

Bitches in season are allowed to compete in accordance with the national rules of the country where the trial is held. Information on this issue should be available on the website of the country which arranges the trial. Bitches in season must, however, perform last. They must be kept off the competition premises and nearby surroundings until all other dogs have completed their exercises.

A general rule is that bitches expected to give birth within four weeks and bitches which have given birth less than eight weeks before the competition date must be excluded.

National rules may state other time limits. This information should be available to all and be clearly posted on the website of the national canine organisation that arranges the trial.

In international obedience competitions (**FCI**-CACIOB) and in **FCI** World Winner Championships (**FCI**-WWC) bitches that are expected to give birth within four weeks and bitches that have given birth within twelve weeks before the competition day are not allowed to compete.

3.5 Changes in appearance

Dogs with docked tails or cropped ears or ones that have had some other changes in appearance made for cosmetic reasons, are admitted only in accordance with the legal regulations of the dog's home country and those of the country where the trial is arranged.

All information on restrictions due to changes in appearance of the dog should be easily available and stated in the national rules and should be posted on the national canine organisation's website of the country.

3.6 Spayed or neutered dogs

Spayed and neutered dogs are allowed to compete.

3.7 Examining the dogs

If necessary, the judge should check the dogs outside the ring before the start of the competition. *National rules may require that all dogs must be checked.*

3.8 Other regulations

If an obedience competition is arranged in connection with a dog show, there should be no requirement that the dog be entered in the dog show (exterior evaluation).

National regulations should define what specific registration and club membership is required.

4. Eligibility to judge obedience competitions

Judges for obedience competitions should have sufficient training in judging **FCI Obedience** and be licensed to judge by the **FCI** national canine organisation of their own country.

The qualifications and language skills of judges invited from other countries should be confirmed. Usually, the inviting national canine organisation contacts the **FCI** national canine organisation of the invited judge to confirm his/her competence.

Ineligibility due to the likelihood of bias: *National regulations define ineligibility due to the likelihood of bias.* At international competitions with **FCI-CACIOB**, the FCI ineligibility rules must be followed as well as the eligibility rules of the organising country, if not otherwise stated.

5. Chief steward

A chief steward must be appointed for the competition. The chief steward is responsible for the practical arrangements of an obedience competition and must have appropriate qualifications. A qualified steward should direct the exercises in Classes 2 and 3. It is also recommended in Class 1. If competitors from abroad enter the competition, it is recommended that a mutual language for directing the exercises is agreed upon beforehand. In Class 3 the steward must be able to conduct the exercises in English or a language mutually agreed upon.

If the exercises are divided and judged by two or more judges, there should be an equal number of stewards. There should be at least one steward per ring.

6. Management of the competition

Obedience competitions are under the management of the (chief) judge of the day and the chief steward. If there is more than one judge in a competition, one of the judges is appointed chief judge and chairman of the judging team.

If incidents occur have not been dealt with within these regulations and directions, the judge (or team of judges lead by the chief judge) decides how to proceed or how to evaluate the incident.

7. Handler's obligations and dog's equipment.

The handler's obligations as a competitor start when he/she 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 decision of the judge.

Handlers should sign in at the competition office no later than 30 minutes before the obedience competition begins. Alternatively, the handler can arrive and sign in 30 minutes before his/her class begins if this possibility has been given by the organizer of the competition.

It is forbidden to punish the dog.

Only ordinary collars (buckled or slip collars) are permitted. Barbed or electric collars and other constraining devices or means such as muzzles are forbidden. This restriction begins at the start of the competition and lasts until the end.

It is mandatory to wear a collar in the group exercises in all classes. It is up to the handler to decide if the dog wears or does not wear a collar in the other exercises. It is recommended that the dogs competing in lower classes should have a collar (beginner's Class & Class 1). In addition to a collar, the dog is allowed to wear a collar for protection against ticks or other arachnids or insects.

In all classes, wearing blankets, mantles, harnesses, raincoats, shoes, stockings, bandages, tapes, etc. on the dog is forbidden during the performance.

The handler should have the dog on her/his left side during and between the exercises.

If the handler has a disability, she/he is allowed to have the dog on the right side during and between the exercises. However, the competitor or team leader must discuss this arrangement with the chief judge / judge before the start of the competition. All judges concerned must be informed of the arrangement, and the effect it has on the evaluating of the performances must be agreed on, if there are several judges involved. All exceptional arrangements should be justified, and it must be ensured that they do not cause disturbance to other dogs and competitors. For example, if a competitor is in a wheelchair, she/he should be placed at the end of the line in group exercises so that no other dog is passed.

8. Dog's behaviour / Disqualification

A dog that at any time during the competition (before, during or after its own performance) bites, tries to bite, attacks or tries to attack people or other dogs, is disqualified from the competition with immediate effect and will forfeit all the points it has gained during a performance already completed. The dog is also disqualified from taking part in any competition during the second day of a two-day competition.

The disqualification is entered in the dog's working book and a report must be sent to the national canine organisation which the dog represents and the national canine organisation of the arranging country.

In addition to the actions mentioned above, national regulations must be followed.

9. Other regulations

Training in the ring

A general rule is that no training is permitted in the competition ring on the day of the trial or competition. A handler is not allowed to enter the competition ring together with his dog nor without his dog unless an authorized person (the chief judge) has given permission.

A handler that knowingly trains in the ring before the competition or during breaks is disqualified.

Group exercises

In the group exercises (Exercise 1) of Classes 1 and 2, the minimum number of dogs in a group is three and the maximum number is six. Exceptionally one group can be done with seven dogs.

In Class 3 the minimum number of dogs in the group exercises (Exercises 3.1 & 3.2) is three and maximum is four, with the exception that there are only altogether five dogs competing in Class 3. In case of special competitions of rank with many competitors, such as qualification competitions, championship competitions and international competitions ([FCI-CACIOB](#)), the chief judge can make a decision together with the judge(s) assessing the group exercises and the steward, to have five dogs in the groups.

II PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

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

10. Layout of the competition

The judge (chief judge, referee judge, chairman of the judging team) has the right, having consulted the organizing committee, to decide in which order the exercises will be done during the competition and how the exercises will be grouped together. The order should be the same for all competitors.

11. Number of competitors and time allocated for judging per day

The competition should be so planned that the judging appointment does not take more than approximately six hours per day.

National guidelines of the country in which the competition is arranged should be followed.

It should be noted that the time needed to judge a particular number of dogs depends on the layout of a competition, the steward, the judge, and the breeds that have been entered.

Approximations of judging times:

Class 1

It is recommended that a judge does not judge more than approximately 30 dogs per day in Class 1. Judging 6 dogs takes approximately an hour.

Classes 2 and 3

It is recommended that a judge does not judge more than 25 dogs per day in Classes 2 and 3.

It is estimated that judging 4 dogs in Class 2 takes approximately one hour.

Judging 7 dogs in Class 3 takes approximately two hours.

If more than one judge is appointed, each one judges the exercises allocated to him for all dogs entering the class. In this case the number of dogs can thus be more.

12. Size of the obedience ring and quantities of the exercises

The size of the obedience ring for an indoor competition should be at least 20 m x 30 m in Classes 2 and 3. When the competition is outdoors, the preferred ring size is at least 25 m x 40 m. In Class 1 the ring can be slightly smaller. The ring can also be smaller if the exercises are divided among two or more rings and those exercises requiring less space are grouped together. The ring should be clearly marked. It is up to the judge to decide whether the ring size is acceptable or not.

All numerical values of the quantities in the exercises are approximations.

13. Equipment

It is the responsibility of the organizing committee to keep the following equipment as well as the rules and guidelines and other necessary instructions, relating to them, available on the competition premises.

Hurdles:

- A boarded hurdle approximately 1 m wide and adjustable in height from about 10 cm to 60 cm at intervals of not more than 10 cm.

The side bars should be approximately 1 m high. The sidebars against the ground should be approximately 1 m long. It should be ensured that the hurdle is safe. In contrast to an agility fence the hurdle should not have side wings. A boarded hurdle like this is needed in Classes 1 & 2 & 3.

- An open hurdle approximately 1 m wide and adjustable in height from approximately 10 cm to 60 cm at intervals of not more than 10 cm.

The side bars should be approximately 1 m high. The sidebars against the ground should be approximately 1 m long. The hurdle should be constructed so that it is open i.e., there is only one board of approximately 3-5 cm high or a round bar of approximately 3–5 cm in diameter at the required height and a thin support bar connecting the feet/sidebars at the bottom. There should be supports only for the bar and the supports should be placed so that the dog can drop the bar regardless of the direction from which the dog jumps. The supports should be slightly concave (spoon like) so that the wind does not drop the bar. The hurdle should not have side wings. An open hurdle like this is needed for Classes 2 & 3 in addition to the boarded hurdle described above.

See figures and description of the hurdles in Part VII Appendix 1.

Suitable retrieve objects:

- Three series (small – middle – large) of wooden dumbbells.

Each series includes three dumbbells of equal size for Class 3.

For Class 2 only two dumbbells of equal size of these are needed.

For Class 1 one of each size should be available. The handler is, however, permitted to use his/her own wooden dumbbell (entirely wooden). The judge should check that the dumbbell fulfils the requirements.

Each series must differ in size and weight, so that they suite different-sized breeds i.e., small, middle-sized, and large breeds. The weight of the largest should not be more than approximately 450 g. The handler can choose whatever size he/she prefers, however.

- Wooden objects approx. 2 cm x 2 cm x 10 cm are needed for Classes 2 and 3 exercises scent retrieve.

In Class 2, the number of objects is six times the number of competing dogs.

In Class 3, the number of objects is eight times the number of competing dogs.

Cones and markers:

- Several approximately 40–50 cm high cones (3–6) or a barrel for exercises 1.8, 2.9 and 3.8 several approximately 40–50 cm high cones (3 – 6) or a barrel of corresponding height and a diameter of 70–80 cm are needed in all classes. The area of the cones or the barrel should cover no less than 0,4 – 0,5 m². The layout (depth X width) of the cones should be 70–80 cm X 70–80 cm.

In championship competitions cones are always used.

See description in Part VII Appendix 4.

A sufficient number of markers, small cones and half spheres must be available to indicate, when necessary, for example the starting and ending points of the exercises and the places of performance such as turning sites, stops, etc.

The markers and cones should be appropriate and suite their purpose. In choosing their size, visibility and colour, their function should be considered i.e., are they meant for the dog, for the handler or the judge and/or steward. For example, the cones for the corners of the squares should be approx. 15 cm and visible. Some cones / half spheres / tapes / tubes indicating for example distances or places to give a command should be inconspicuous to the dog.

Other equipment that should be available:

- charts by which the awarded grades are shown,
- charts on which the positions of the distance control are written or drawn or an electrical display board,
- chalk, spray paint (non-toxic), tape strands or equivalent means that can be used for marking e.g., the squares and circles as well as starting points/ending points.

III CLASSES, EXERCISES AND COEFFICIENTS

It is recommended that national obedience programmes include a novice / beginners' class which the dogs should pass before entering Class 1.

CLASS 1	Exercise	Coeff.	Points
1.	Sitting in a group for 1 minute, handlers in sight	3	30
2.	Heelwork	4	40
3.	Stand or sit or down under march	3	30
4.	Recall	4	40
5.	Send away into a square and lying down	4	40
6.	Distance control	4	40
7.	Retrieve and jumping over a hurdle	4	40
8.	Send round a group of cones/barrel and return	4	40
9.	General impression	2	20
	Σ	32	320

CLASS 2	Exercise	Coeff.	Points
1.	Lying in a group for 2 minutes, handlers out of sight	3	30
2.	Heelwork	4	40
3.	Stand / sit / down under march	3	30
4.	Recall with stand	3	30
5.	Send away with directing, down and recall	4	40
6.	Directed retrieve	3	30
7.	Scent discrimination and retrieve	3	30
8.	Distance control	4	40
9.	Send round a group of cones/barrel, stop and jump	3	30
10.	General impression	2	20
	Σ	32	320

CLASS 3	Exercise	Coeff.	Points
The rules and guidelines of Class 3 must be applied at International obedience competitions where a FCI-CACIOB and reserve FCI-CACIOB can be awarded as well as at FCI World and Section Winner championship competitions. These rules are effective from 1.1.2022.			
1.	Sitting in a group for 2 minutes, handlers out of sight	2	20
2.	Lying in a group for 1 minute, and recall	2	20
3.	Heelwork	4	40
4.	Stand, sit and down under march	3	30
5.	Recall with stand /sit / down	3	30
6.	Send away with directing, down and recall	4	40
7.	Directed retrieve	3	30
8.	Send round a group of cones, stop (stand/sit/down), retrieve and jump	4	40
9.	Scent discrimination and retrieve	3	30
10.	Distance control	4	40
	Σ	32	320

IV GRADES, AWARDS, MOVING UP AND MOVING DOWN

14.1 Grades and points

Introduction to evaluating and grading the obedience exercises.

The judge shows grades (mark) when evaluating exercises. A coefficient has been determined for each exercise. The coefficients are from 2–4. The coefficients for the exercises are listed in part III. Multiplying the grade with the coefficient leads to the points awarded for each exercise. Summing up these points leads to the final grade. The final grades are **excellent**, **very good** and **good**. Points needed for a final grade are given in the table below.

The grades that can be awarded for the exercises are as follows:

0 – 5 – 5½ – 6 – 6½ – 7 – 7½ – 8 – 8½ – 9 – 9½ – 10.

Table: Points and final grades

Final grades		Maximum 320 points	Points
Excellent	1 st prize	80 %	256 – 320 points
Very good	2 nd prize	70 %	224 – under 256 points
Good	3 rd prize	60 %	192 – under 224 points

14.2 Failing and disqualification

Failing an exercise is a result of a failing grade, zero (0), in that specific exercise. The dog may continue with the remaining exercises.

Failing the trial/competition is a result of achieving less than 192 points. The final grade is “failure”.

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.

The use of yellow and red cards

In Class 3 yellow and red cards are used.

The yellow card indicates a warning. The judge can give a warning due to the handler's or dog's actions.

If the judge shows the yellow card 10 points are deducted from the final score. If the judge shows a yellow card twice disqualification follows.

The red card indicates disqualification. The dog may not continue with the remaining exercises of the competition.

The use of red/yellow cards in competitions with several judges:

1) Two or more judges in separate rings

- When two judges are judging separately (two rings, different exercises), one red card (the first) leads to disqualification.
- If one of the judges has shown a yellow card e.g., in the first ring, the other judges (in the second or third ring) should not be informed of this. All judges work independently. The issuing of a yellow card is recorded and if a yellow card is shown by a latter judge as well (second or third ring) the secretary records it and then informs the judge that one yellow card has been issued earlier and disqualification will thus follow. Naturally two yellow cards given by the same judge leads to disqualification as well.

2) Two or more judges in the same ring

If one of the judges wants to warn (yellow card) or disqualify (red card) a competitor, he/she informs the other(s) and the matter will be decided on together. Preferably the chief judge (chairman of the judging team) will show the card if he/she is in the ring.

14.3 Moving up and moving down

A dog that has achieved excellent (1st prize) in a class, in any country applying these rules and guidelines may move up to the next class.

A dog should not move up to the next class with less of a result than 1 x excellent.

A dog may compete in its class until it has achieved 3 x excellent / country.

It is up to the national rules to state how many starts are allowed in a class after the dog's third excellent or for how long a time a dog may compete after the dog's third excellent, before it is required to move up to the next class.

Exceptions to moving up:

It is up to national decisions to decide under what circumstances a dog may stay in a class or move down to compete in a lower class. Such latitude can concern for example veterans over 8 years or 10 years. It is recommended that these exceptions should not concern competitions of rank or championship competitions for teams, if not specifically so defined.

Information about moving up, staying in a class, and moving down must be stated in the national obedience rules and this information should be available on the national canine organisation's national www-pages.

If there is no mention in the national rules it is presumed that a dog moves up after 3 X excellent and is not allowed to move down.

Rank order:

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 the following exercises should be added together:

Class 1: 1.2 (Heelwork) & 1.4 (Recall) & 1.5 (Send away) and 1.9 (General impression)

Class 2: 2.2 (Heelwork) & 2.4 (Recall) & 2.5 (Send away) and 2.10 (General impression)

Class 3: 3.3 (Heelwork), 3.5 (Recall) and 3.6 (Send away).

In class 3 these above mentioned three exercises should be repeated in case two or more dogs have gained the same total number of points.

In Classes 1 & 2, if the addition of points gives the same result, the higher general impression decides the order. If this does not determine the order, the exercises mentioned above are repeated. The new results, however, are not to be registered as a result for this competition nor entered in the dog's result booklet as the official result of the competition.

Ribbons and awards:

The colours of the obedience ribbons and rosettes have traditionally been black - red - yellow.

It is recommended that a medal, emblem, trophy, or diploma is awarded after 3 x excellent in a class.

15. Obedience Champion and International Obedience Certificate FCI-CACIOB

15.1 National Obedience Champion

It is recommended that a dog gets the title Obedience Champion of its nation when it has received **3 x excellent** in the highest class, Class 3. The excellent must be awarded by at least two different judges separately.

It is recommended that a dog can receive the title of Obedience Champion of another country once it is an Obedience Champion of its own country and has received one excellent from another country, the country concerned.

15.2 International Obedience Certificate (FCI-CACIOB)

The winning dog (with two testicles if a male) is awarded the **FCI-CACIOB** if it has achieved the result **excellent / 1st prize**, and the dog placed second (with similar restriction) is awarded the reserve **FCI-CACIOB if the result is excellent**. For these awards to be confirmed by the FCI, the dogs must be registered in the studbook (vs appendix to the studbook) of an FCI member or contract partner nation.

A prize or a rosette is to be given to the dog which is awarded the **FCI-CACIOB** and the one awarded reserve **FCI-CACIOB**. Preferably, the colours should display the colours of obedience (black – red – yellow) and include the colours indicating **FCI-CACIOB** (white) and reserve **FCI-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 **FCI-CACIOB** and reserve **FCI-CACIOB** should also be displayed.

V GENERAL RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR PERFORMING AND JUDGING THE EXERCISES

The regulations and guidelines for performing and judging the exercises comprise of

- A) A general part which concerns performing and judging all exercises in Classes 1 and 2 and 3.
- B) A part which describes the layout, performing and judging of the individual exercises.

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

If incidents occur that are not covered in these regulations and guidelines, 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.

16. General guidelines for performing and judging all exercises

These general guidelines are followed in all exercises if not otherwise stated in the descriptions of the exercises.

16.1 Performing the exercises

1. National rules can state that all dogs must be checked before they are permitted to enter the ring, and national rules might also state that the dog should allow the judge to handle/touch the dog.
2. The judge can choose the order in which the exercises are performed. The order should be the same for all competitors.

The handler is allowed skip one or several exercises. The handler should inform the steward and judge in advance which exercises he/she will omit, preferably before the start of the competition, but in any case, before taking the starting position of an exercise.

In case of omitting the group exercise(s), it is considerate to inform this in good time, so that this can be taken account of when planning the groups.

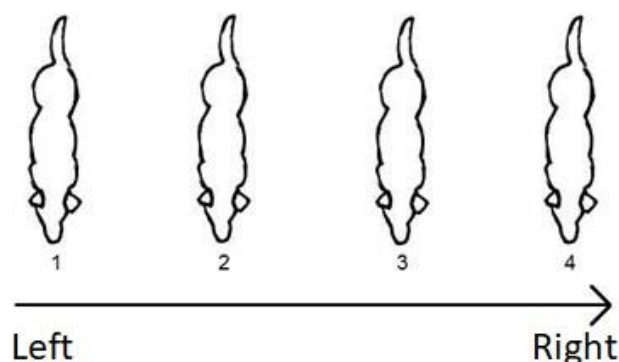
In some countries the national rules can demand participating in the group exercises. This must be separately stated.
3. The exercises begin and end with the dog in heel position. The heel position is defined as the sitting position at the handler's left side.

4. The handler walks at normal pace in all exercises except for the heelwork exercises. The exercise "heelwork" can also include a fast and slow pace depending on the class.
Ex. 3.4 can also include fast pace in competitions of rank.
5. All exercises begin when the steward has directed the handler and dog to the starting place and the dog sits in starting position and the steward has announced "Exercise starts" or "Exercise begins". The group exercises begin when the handlers with their dogs are standing in a row and the steward has announced "Exercise starts" or "Exercise begins".
6. The handler should command his/her dog to heel position at the starting point and be ready to start the exercise within short. In Class 1 the tolerance can be slightly more than in Classes 2 and 3 in which the handlers should be prepared to have their dogs in heel position and start the exercise very shortly after having reached the starting point.
7. All exercises are over when the steward has announced "Exercise ended" or "Thank you".
8. In all exercises, if not otherwise stated in the exercises, the steward gives the permission to the handler to command the dog in all phases of the exercise, even if it is not systematically written down in the exercises.
9. It is up to the handler to decide, whether or not to give a second command /an extra command and when to give it.
10. The steward's commands mentioned in these regulations are just examples. It is important that the commands are distinct and clear to both handlers and judges. This means both meaning and volume. Excess volume is, however, not recommended.
11. It is not allowed to point out or show places and directions to the dog before or during exercises (other than those relating to the ongoing exercise), or at the starting point. Such activity will lead to failing of the exercise.

Wearing a collar and having a leash

12. In Class 1 the handler may enter the ring with the dog on leash. During the whole performance, the handler must keep the leash invisible to the dog. The handler may also leave it at the steward's table or outside the ring. He/she may put the leash on the dog after the performance when he/she leaves the ring. The dog must wear a collar during the group exercises. It is recommended that the dog wears a collar also during the exercises. In addition, a collar for prevention of ticks and other insects is allowed.
 13. In Classes 2 and 3 the handler must leave the dog's leash outside the ring or at the steward's table. This applies to all exercises. The dog must wear a collar during all group exercises. It is up to the handler to decide if the dog wears a collar or not during the other exercises. In addition, a collar for prevention of ticks and other insects is allowed.
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14. The dog should be on the handler's left side between the exercises. The dog does not have to be in heel position and under command, but it should be beside the handler and under control. If for some reason or other there is a delay when moving from one exercise to the next, giving the dog a down command is allowed, but the dog should not be recalled from the down position (or any position) to continue with the exercises. The handler should go to the dog and they should proceed together to the next starting point.
15. The handler should move in a normal way using straight paths. Indefinite or ambiguous movement, exaggerated gestures, signals or body language and unnatural movement of the extremities cause a drop in the grade. Turns and turnabouts should be 90° and 180° and after turnabouts the handler should return using his original path.
16. In exercises where the dog is passed, the distance between the dog and the handler should be approximately 0,5 m. The handler may pass the dog from either side, if not otherwise stated in the exercise.
17. The directions right and left (e.g., in directed retrieve) are defined from the handler's viewpoint, i.e. the handler looking to his/her right-hand side or left-hand side when directing the dog from the starting point.
In the group exercises, however, the direction is from left to right when facing the dogs in front of the line-up. 1 = left ... 4 = right.



18. 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 failing of the exercise. Slight encouragement (e.g., saying "well done - well done" or giving a few gentle pats) is allowed after the exercise has been completed.
19. Titbits or toys, such as balls or other toys are not allowed in the ring, neither during nor between exercises. If the judge observes that a competitor has or uses titbits or toys in the ring, he or she will be disqualified.

20. In directing exercises, the handler is not allowed to show directions or touch the dog at the starting point, even before the exercise. This will fail the exercise.
A “hand touch” is, however, allowed once at the starting point, before the start. It has to be quick, may not give the impression of showing directions and it must be the dog (muzzle) touching the handler’s palm, not the handler touching the dog.
21. In the case of excessive encouragement, playing or fooling around, jumping into the arms of the handler, weaving around the handler’s legs, etc., the judge will warn the competitor and
- in Classes 1 & 2 the judge will note this behaviour in the general impression as part of his/her general impression of the performance,
 - in Class 3 the judge will show the yellow card,
 - in all classes a second incident will disqualify the dog.
22. The judge has the right to stop an exercise if the dog shows obvious incapability or unwillingness to perform it. Such an exercise is failed.

Improper functioning, barking and whining:

23. The judge has the right to bar a dog from further participation in the competition if it is not functioning properly or if it is causing disturbance by continuous barking or whining.
24. Barking and whining during an exercise also influences the grade awarded.
25. In case of barking or whining both during and between exercises, the judge can give a first warning and
- in Classes 1 & 2 note this behaviour in the general impression,
 - in Class 3 show the yellow card.
 - if the before mentioned behaviour continues, the judge will disqualify the dog.
26. The height of the hurdles or jumps (in a class or exercise) should not be more than approximately the dog’s height at the withers and thus the height of the hurdles should be raised or lowered correspondingly. In class 1 & class 2, the maximum height is 50 cm and in class 3 it is 60 cm.

Heelwork:

27. The heelwork is in all classes performed without a leash.
28. The unleashed dog should follow the handler willingly, walking on the handler’s left side, with its shoulder parallel with the handler’s left knee and following the handler in a parallel line. The distance between dog and handler should be distinct. The distance depends to some extent on the size of the dog. The dog should not lean on the handler, touch the handler or in any way disturb the handler or vice versa. These are severe mistakes.

Depending on the class, heeling is tested in two or three paces / speeds: normal, slow, and fast pace. The heelwork also, depending on class, includes turns to the right and to the left, turnabouts, and halts as well as steps in all directions. These are described in more detail in the description of the heeling exercises of the different classes.

The handler should walk normally and show a clear distinction between all the paces required in the exercise (normal, slow and fast paces). The handler should move his arms and feet in a natural way during the exercises and should not in any way assist the heeling by using body language including for example hands or feet.

The dog should move in a natural way. The dog can look at the handler and keep eye contact. This is even preferable, but this may not however lead to an unnatural position of the head or body or an unnatural angle of the neck- and backline (spine) for example an angle less than 90°. What is seen as a natural neck and backline depends also on the breed. This should be taken account of.

29. In the heelwork exercises the handler can choose to do the turnabouts (180° turn) to the left or to the right. The “German turnabout” is equally acceptable (the dog circles round the handler reasonably tightly from the right side). The handler should, when making a turnabout, return approximately along the same path that he/she came.
30. Turns to the left and right during the heelwork should be at right angles (90°). The handler should not turn his head, should not twist his shoulders or use any other body language or give any signals with his hands or feet.
31. The “Heel” command may be given at every start, when changing speed and when taking steps in different directions and at turns and turnabouts from a standing position.
32. When the handler stops, the dog should take the heel position immediately and without a command.
33. Walking backwards longer distances in Classes 2 & 3 should start from a heel position (a stop) and end in a heel position (a stop).

Note that also in Class 3, exercise 4 (positions), the exercise should start from a heel position and end in a heel position.

See general guidelines for judging heelwork § 63 and the specific descriptions for performing heelwork in each class.

Commands and hand signals:

34. The commanding words, given in these guidelines, are recommendations. Other sufficiently short words are acceptable as commands.
35. The “Heel” command may be given at every start of an exercise and the command “Stay” is allowed in exercises in which the handler leaves the dog or turns away from the dog.

36. All commands must be voice commands i.e. voice commands must be used in all exercises and they must be distinct. The judge must have a possibility to clearly hear the commands given to the dog. Excess volume, however, is not desirable and may drop the grade.
- In some exercises hand signals may be used in addition to a voice command, but the hand signal must be given simultaneously with the voice command. If a hand signal is allowed, it will be stated in the exercise. When using hand signals, they must be short and not outlast the vocal command and not include any other body language.
- One hand or two hands may be used in the recall exercises on the stops, and in the distance control exercises. Only one hand is allowed when directing the dog.
37. The concept body language means moving your body (not necessarily taking steps), twisting, or turning your body, turning your head, or shrugging your shoulders, as well as giving signals with your feet or hands. This reduces the grade according to gravity and situation.
- The handler may quickly turn his/her head in the direction where the dog is sent and the handler may quickly look back when recalling the dog from the box.
38. Taking steps when commanding (in situations where the handler should stand still) will fail the exercise.
39. Hand signals are never allowed when the dog is beside the handler in heel position. This will result in a heavy reduction of the grade, the reduction being 2-4 depending on strength, situation, and duration. If other body language is included the reduction is always even more.
40. In exercises where the dog is directed or needs to be redirected, hands signals are allowed simultaneously with vocal commands when the dog is at a distance. Such exercises, or parts of exercises are running around the cone, directing into a circle and into a square and directing to retrieve the correct dumbbell. Reducing the grade for a simultaneous hand signal should not be done, only for the extra commands or redirecting commands.

Recall and retrieving exercises:

41. It is permitted to include the dog's name in the recall command in all recall exercises / all recall situations. The name and the command must be tied closely together so that the name and command do not give an impression of two separate commands. It is also allowed merely to use the dog's name.
42. In the recall and retrieving exercises the dog is allowed either to come directly to the heel position or to come and sit in front of the handler first. If sitting in front of the handler, the dog must, on command (after permission from the steward), quickly take its heel position, passing the handler closely. This applies also in the case of jumping the hurdle.
43. In the recall and retrieving exercises, the judge does not need to know whether the dog was intended to take the heel position directly or after sitting in front. If the exercise is elegantly performed, a high grade (excellent) can be awarded regardless of what was intended.

44. If a dumbbell is thrown unintentionally to an unsatisfactory place (bumps outside the ring or to a place where it can't be reached or is not thrown over the hurdle /too short a distance), it must be thrown again. This, however, results in a reduction of 2 grades. If the second throw is not successful, the exercise is failed (=0).
45. It is not allowed to let the dog take hold of the object / dumbbell before the exercises. If this occurs, not more than 5 can be awarded in Class 1. In Classes 2 & 3 the exercise is failed.
46. The handler is free to choose the size of the dumbbells they will work with. In class 1 the handler may use his/her own dumbbell. The judge checks that the handler's dumbbell is acceptable.

16.2 Judging the exercises

Introduction to basic principles on judging exercises

A basic principle in judging is that the grade is dropped when mistakes occur. Some mistakes cause a drop of 1, some a drop of 2 and some a drop of 3 grades, etc. The drop depends on the mistake.

We also apply the principle that we have the same drop, in all exercises and classes, for the same mistake. Thus, the drop for a mistake does not in most cases depend on the class or on the exercise.

Essential in these principles is that the drop is for the mistake.

The mistake can be

- the dog (or handler) doing something wrong,
- the dog (or handler) neglecting to do something on command,
- the dog acting on its own.

A mistake is also lack of willingness, being reluctant, etc.

In some cases, an extra command is needed e.g. the dog has not obeyed a down command at start off. Thus, it needs an extra down command. The mistake was not going down.

In some cases, NO new command is needed e.g. the dog is standing/lying down where it should but has done so without the command.

The drop should be the same despite the case of a new command needed or not. So, there is no additional drop just because a new command is needed.

In general, if the dog has disobeyed the first command,

- the drop for a second/extra command in classes 2 & 3 is two grades (2) and
- the drop in class 1 is one grade (1), in addition
- there are situations in which the drop for an extra command can be 1-2. These are specific for some exercises and are in the exercises.

Note: In class 1 there are, regarding a second command, some exceptions, such as disobeying a recall in which the drop is 2 grades for a second recall and distance control in which disobeying a position change command for the first time drops 2 grades. See a more detailed description in the judging directions of the exercises.

Some examples of mistakes and drops:

- A wrong position in all exercises is -2, except for positions and distance control exercises. For example, in recall exercises with stops, in the circle or the box, provided the stops have been from all other aspects perfect, the drop for a wrong position is 2. For a wrong position, the handler does not necessarily need to give a correcting command. It does not improve the grade. In some cases, the handler is well able to give and gives a correcting command. This should not be a cause for a new drop, provided that the dog has obeyed quickly, and the result is perfect on the extra command. Note the exceptions described in the exercises, for example positions exercises and distance control exercise.
- In many exercises a late stop drops 3 grades, or it can in some cases fail the exercise.
- Independent actions (the dog acting without a command) drops 3 grades in most exercises, specifically in exercises in which the dog is directed (See § 67)

47. Judging of an exercise starts when the handler has taken his/her position at the starting point with the dog sitting in heel position, and the stewards says, "Exercise starts". Judging of an exercise ends when the steward has announced "End of exercise" or "Thank you".
48. All deviations from the ideal should reduce the grade: all extra commands, double commands, body language, deviations of heel position and deviations from parallel movement, etc.

Body language

- Body language drops the grade with 1–5 depending on strength, duration and frequency.
- For strong body language (long duration, clear and strong, hinder with hand, 4–5 grades are dropped.
- For small, but clear hand signals, clear tilting of head, 2–3 grades are dropped.
- For a very short look at the dog, a light almost unnoticeable hand signal or a slight shrug of a shoulder, 1–2 grades are dropped.
- In Class 1, the drop for body language may be a bit more lenient, but the grade must be dropped for deviations such as body language.

49. It is important that the dog is happy and willing to obey the commands.

50. In judging speed and tempo, the breed and structure of the dog should be taken account of. The ideal for all breeds is not the same. When a dog reacts to the commands instantly and willingly, moves typically of its breed and structure, keeps its pace, and shows consistency, interest, and accuracy in what it is doing, the dog should be awarded an excellent grade, provided, that there are no mistakes for which the grade must be dropped.

In obeying commands e.g., stop commands, the distance that the dog moves after the command is evaluated. The dog's speed should be such that it is able to obey the commands (e.g., stop commands). "There is more tolerance for fast dogs than slow dogs" does not mean that the distance may be longer for fast dogs than that mentioned in the exercises. It means that a slow dog is able to stop at once on command. Confronting steps after the command is a big mistake. Also, if the dog slides forward after a stop command, the distance is evaluated as if the dog was taking steps.

Commands /Second command /Extra commands

51. In Class 1 a general rule is that for a second /an extra command the grade is dropped by 1. A third command fails the exercise or part of it.

This general rule has two exceptions in class 1.

In recall (1.4) and distance control (1.6) there are the following exceptions:

- In all recall exercises and situations and in all classes a second /extra recall drops the grade with 2.
- In all distance control exercises in all classes (Ex 1.6, 2.8, 3.10) the first time an extra command must be given on a position change, the grade is dropped by 2. After this the extra commands on the positions lead to a drop by 1.

In Classes 2 & 3 a general rule is that 2 grades are dropped for a second (extra) command and a third command fails the exercise or part of it.

In all classes, if the handler does not give a voice command (clearly) or merely gives a hand signal, 2 grades are dropped.

Note, that the drop for an extra command is actually a drop for the mistake. In some cases, the mistake of not obeying the first command. See Introduction for judging.

A part of an exercise means e.g., sitting at the end of an exercise, a position of the distance control exercises, or a position of the exercises 2.3 and 3.4.

In exercises with directing commands and in distance control commands, 1–2 grades are dropped for a second command. See the directions for these exercises, Ex 1.5 & 1.6 and Ex 2.5 & 2.8 and Ex 3.6 & 3.10.

52. Any punishment of the dog leads to disqualification of the handler and dog.
53. If the handler touches the dog during the exercise, the exercise is failed (=0). This may lead to a warning.
One “hand touch”, which is allowed at the starting point, means that the dog once touches (with the tip of its muzzle) the handler’s palm. This is permitted only before the start of the exercise.
54. If touching the dog during or between exercises can be interpreted as a punishment, the handler and the dog are disqualified.
55. If the dog does not take the heel position or the starting position of an exercise (i.e., sit or down), the exercise is failed (=0).
56. If a dog does not take its heel position (sit) at the end of an exercise
- in Class 1, no more than 8 can be awarded; 1 grade is dropped for disobeying the first “sit” command and 1 grade for not having taken the heel position.
 - in Class 2 & 3, no more than 7 can be awarded.
57. If the dog does not sit calmly beside the handler at the start of an exercise, no more than 8 can be awarded.
58. If the handler takes steps when giving commands, the exercise is failed (=0).
59. If a dog touches the handler (slightly, lightly) e.g., in recall or retrieving exercises when sitting in front of the handler or coming to heel position / moving to the side of the handler, 1–2 grades should be dropped. If it bumps into / collides with the handler, no more than 7 should be awarded.
60. Barking, even occasionally, or whining during an exercise lowers the grade. No more than 7 should be awarded in the case of barking, and if the dog barks (or whines) a lot, even more is dropped. For continuous barking or whining, the exercise is failed (=0). Even if there is only one very short, quick series of barks at the beginning (or end) of the exercise, maybe expressing enthusiasm, at least 1 grade should be dropped. If the barking is continuous and is repeated in several exercises, the dog is disqualified. The same holds for whining.
61. Controlling the dog by the collar between exercises leads to a warning and to a reduction of the grade of the general impression. In Class 3 it leads to a yellow card and eventually to a red card if more warnings are needed.
62. If the dog relieves itself in the ring:
- in Class 1, during an exercise, the exercise is failed (=0) and the general impression is failed (=0).
 - in Class 1, in-between the exercises, the general impression is failed (=0).
 - in Classes 2 & 3 during or in-between exercises, the dog is disqualified.

Heelwork, judging guidelines

See general guidelines for performing § 27–23 and specific descriptions for each class.

63. In judging heelwork, the overall picture as well as the details should be taken account of. The drop of the grade in heelwork depends on the frequency of the mistakes and the gravity, degree, and intensity of the mistakes.

Features to be valued in all heelwork: The movement of both handler and dog must be natural. The dog should consistently, attentively, actively and with good contact and motivation follow the handler at his/her left side keeping its position and distance from the handler throughout the schema, also on turns, turnabouts, and halts as well as at different speeds. The dog should keep its position with ease and without stress or pressure, and it should not look as if the dog frequently searches for the correct position during the heelwork.

The handler should walk normally and clearly show all the paces required in the exercise (normal, slow and fast). If the handler and dog move slowly, or if the different paces are not clearly shown, 2–3 grades should be deducted.

Slow or hesitant sitting, failing to sit at stops and extra commands at any stage are mistakes. An imperfect direction (not parallel, crabbing, bent) during the heelwork or heel positions should result in a loss of about 1–3 grades, depending on degree and frequency of the mistakes. Slowing down and stopping before, during or after turns and stops will reduce the grade as well.

The distance between dog and handler must be clear i.e., so that a slight space can be detected). Forging, lagging, crabbing and heeling wide are big mistakes. The grade should be lowered by 2–5, if the dog walks very close (tightly) to the handler, more if it disturbs or hinders the handler, and even more if the dog frequently walks touching the handler or leaning on the handler.

The exercise can be failed (=0), if forging and leaning is continuous or bumping into each other is frequent or serious or if the distance is continuously too tight/close.

The exercise can be failed (=0), if the dog that leaves the handler or follows the handler at the distance of more than half a metre during a major part of the exercise (lagging or heeling wide).

Moving in a natural way means among others that the neck and backline should be natural. The dog may look at the handler and keep eye contact. This may not, however, lead to exaggeration i.e., to an unnatural position of the head or an unnatural angle of the neck- and backline (spine), for example an angle less than 90°. The dog looking sideways (in an unnatural, exaggerated way) is an equally serious mistake.

Note that a natural holding of the head (angle) can differ between breeds.

Faults of the dog's natural way of moving should result in a severe drop of the grade (2-5). These can even fail the exercise, certainly if other mistakes are included.

Failing the heelwork exercise (=0)

- A dog that leaves the handler or follows the handler at the distance of more than half a metre during a major part of the exercise, fails the exercise (=0).
- A dog that is frequently whining and/or barking during the exercise, fails the exercise.
- A dog that frequently needs extra commands, fails the exercise.
- A team that is trudging or lagging the major time of the exercise fails the exercise.

Anticipating, starting the exercise too early and acting on its own

64. If a dog anticipates the command (i.e., does not keep the heel position properly: jerks, stands up, but does not take steps forward) when starting the exercise, no more than 8 can be awarded.
65. In Class 1, (in exercises where the dog is sent away from the handler) if the dog leaves the handler (starts the exercise) after the exercise has started but before the command of the handler (for example on the steward's command), the handler may call the dog once. If it returns and completes the exercise, max 7 can be awarded. If it does not return, but continues with the exercise, the exercise is failed (=0).
66. In Classes 2 & 3 if the dog starts the exercise (leaves the handler) before the handler's command (for example on the steward's command), there is no possibility for recall and the exercise is failed (=0).
67. If a dog acts on its own (independently) during an exercise, for example stops without a command, goes down without a command, a general rule is that the grade is dropped by 3. Examples:
 - The dog stops independently anywhere on its way to the circle or box (outside) or to a dumbbell or to the cones/barrel. The dog needs a new command to continue. The drop is 3.
 - The dog stops independently in the box. Even if the dog does not need a new command to continue. The drop is still 3.

- The dog goes down independently (no down command given) inside the box (the position was directly down). The drop is 3.

Leaving the ring or leaving the handler

Leaving the ring

68. In Classes 2 & 3, if a dog leaves the ring during or between the exercises being out of control, it is disqualified.
69. In Class 1, if the dog leaves the ring during or between the exercises being out of control, the handler is allowed to call the dog twice. If it returns, they may continue with the competition, but not more than 5 may be awarded for the general impression. The exercise concerned is failed (=0). If the dog leaves the ring for a second time, disqualification follows.
70. In group exercises:
If the dog leaves the ring during a group exercise (when the handler is out of sight) and goes to the handler who is outside the ring (classes 2 & 3), this will not lead to disqualification from the competition, provided that the dog is clearly under control and goes directly to the handler. The exercise, however, is failed (=0), as well as a clear drop in the general impression (no more than 5 can be awarded) in class 2 and a yellow card in class 3.

In class 1, the handlers are in the ring, so leaving the ring is judged as in the other exercises, no more than 5 should be awarded in general impression.

Leaving the handler without leaving the ring

71. In Classes 2&3, if the dog leaves the handler during an exercise (interrupts the exercise) or between exercises and is out of control, but does not leave the ring, the handler may call the dog (once) without leaving his/her position. If the dog returns to the handler, the exercise concerned is failed (=0), but the dog and handler can continue with the next exercise.

In Class 2 this causes a severe drop of the grade of the general impression, no more than 5 may be awarded.

In Class 3 this leads to a warning. The judge will show a yellow card.

If the dog does not return, or if the dog leaves a second time, disqualification follows (both Classes 2 & 3). In Class 3 the judge will show a red card.

72. In Class 1 if the dog leaves the handler during an exercise or between exercises and is out of control, the handler may call the dog twice without leaving his position. If the dog returns to the handler, they may continue with the competition, but this will be noted in the general

impression and cause a reduction of the grade, no more than 7 may be awarded. The exercise concerned is failed (=0). If the dog leaves the handler a second time, disqualification follows.

Retrieving exercises

73. Dropping the dumbbell/object:

If the dog drops the dumbbell/object, but picks it up on its own initiative, no more than 7 can be awarded. If an extra “retrieve” command has to be given before the dog picks up the dropped dumbbell/object, the maximum grade is 5. If the dog drops the object beside the handler and the handler picks it up without taking a step, 5 can be awarded provided that the dog takes the heel position correctly. If the object is dropped, due to the handler’s carelessness after the release command, no more than 7 can be awarded.

74. Chewing or biting on the dumbbell/object

Chewing or biting on the dumbbell/object are serious mistakes and are penalised by a reduction of the grade by 2–3. If chewing is extensive, not more than 5 may be awarded. Very extensive chewing or breaking the dumbbell/object results in failing the exercise (=0). No penalty should be given, however, if the dog once takes a better grip on the dumbbell/object.

Not releasing the dumbbell to the handler on command, but keeping a tight hold of it after command, is a serious mistake and will drop the grade accordingly.

General Impression

75. In such competitions (in Classes 1 & 2) where the exercises of a class are divided to several rings so that two or more judges are judging the class, e.g. one judge has some of the exercises and the other judge has the rest of the exercises, both judges give their own grade on the general impression on the basis of the dog’s work in their ring, and the final grade for the general impression is calculated as an average of the grades given by each judge.

If, however, the judging guidelines say, in connection with certain mistakes, that no more than 7 or no more than 5 can be awarded for the general impression or **in case** the general impression is 0 if the dog ..., the final grade for the general impression cannot be higher, even if the other judges would have awarded higher grades. The final grade can be lower if the other judges have awarded lower grades.

VI GENERAL RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR PERFORMING AND JUDGING THE INDIVIDUAL EXERCISES

CLASS 1

EXERCISE 1.1 Sitting in a group, 1 minute, handlers in sight [Coeff. 3]

Commands: "Sit" – "Stay"

Performance:

There should be at least three dogs in a group, but no more than six. The handlers should enter the ring with their dog on leash and remove the leash when standing at the starting point with the dog in heel position. The leash must be put out of sight.

The exercise starts when all handlers of the group stand in a row at a distance of approximately 3 metres (3 m) from each other with their dogs in heel position and unleashed. The steward announces: "Exercise starts-leave your dogs". The exercise ends when the handlers have returned to their dogs and the steward has announced: "Exercise ended".

The handlers leave their dogs walking forwards together, in a row, approximately 15 metres towards the ringside and turn to face their dogs. When one minute (1 min.) has elapsed, the handlers are instructed to walk in a row back towards their dogs. The handlers pass their dogs at the distance of approximately ½ metre, take a standing position approx. 3 metres behind their dogs, after which the handlers are instructed to walk up beside their dogs. The one-minute period starts when all the handlers have reached the distance of 15 metres and turned around.

Directions for judging:

A dog that fails to sit (two commands, see general rules § 55), stands up, lies down, or moves more than its own body length, fails the exercise (= 0). If the dog lies down or stands up after the one-minute period has passed and the handlers are / have been instructed to move towards their dogs, no more than 6 can be awarded.

All movement reduces the grade. Restlessness, such as shifting weight from one side or one foot to another, reduces the grade. The dog may turn its head and look around, and it may show interest if there is a distraction or noise inside or outside the ring. This, however, should not give an appearance of restlessness or anxiety.

If the dog barks a few barks, 1–2 grades are reduced; if it barks several times (clusters), the grade is lowered even more. If it barks most of the time, the exercise is failed (=0). This same also applies to whining.

If a dog stands up and goes close to another dog, so that there is fear for severe disturbance or a fight, the exercise must be stopped and then resumed for all the dogs except for the dog that caused the disturbance.

EXERCISE 1.2 **Heelwork** **[Coeff. 4]**

Command: “Heel”

Performance: Note: The general directions describe performing and judging heelwork in detail. See general guidelines for performing heelwork § 27–32.

Class 1 heelwork is tested at normal pace in conjunction with turns to the left and to the right, turnabouts, and halts. Heelwork is also tested in fast pace, but only right turns should be included. There should be a clear difference in speed between normal pace and fast pace. The dog must also be tested when the handler moves two or three steps forwards and backwards. All competitors in one trial or competition should do the heelwork according to the same schema.

Time suggestion: Approximately 1 min. Take account of, that some breeds/handlers take slightly more or less time when walking the same schema /distances.

Directions for judging: Note: The general directions describe performing and judging heelwork in detail. See general guidelines for judging heelwork § 63. These should be followed but also the class should be taken account of when judging heelwork.

A dog that leaves the handler or follows the handler at the distance of more than half a metre during a major part of the exercise, fails the exercise (=0). If the handler and dog move slowly (in normal pace or fast pace), 2-4 grades should be lowered. Lagging is a big mistake and should drop 2–5 grades.

Lack of contact and extra commands are mistakes. An imperfect direction (not parallel, crabbing) during the heelwork should result in a loss of about 1–3 grades. Slowing down or stopping before, during or after turns and before stops will reduce the grade.

The movement of the dog (and handler) in heelwork must be natural. Unnatural positions of the dog and exaggerations are big mistakes. This applies also to the handler. These can even fail the exercise.

The distance between dog and handler must be distinct. The grade should be lowered, if the dog walks very near to the handler, more so if it disturbs or hinders the handler, and the grade should be dropped even more if the dog leans on or touches the handler.

EXERCISE 1.3 Position under march

[Coeff. 3]

Commands: “Heel” – “Stand / Sit / Down ” – “Sit”

Description: The judge has decided which position of the three positions, stand/sit/down, the dog should take. The judge/steward should have informed the handlers before the beginning of the competition (beginning of the class) which position will be used. The position is the same for all competitors in Class 1.

Performance: All phases of the exercise, except turning around at the marker/cone, are done on the steward’s permission.

Handler and dog leave the starting point walking straight forwards at normal pace. After approximately 10 metres, the handler commands (without stopping), the dog to stand/sit/down and the dog must take the correct position immediately. A second command is not allowed on the position. This will fail the exercise (=0).

The handler continues walking towards the turning point, approximately 10 metres (place indicated e.g. by a marker or cone), turns around (independently) and stops to stand facing the dog. After approximately three seconds the handler is told to return. He/she walks towards the dog along the parallel path that he/she had left the dog, passing the dog at a distance of approximately 0,5 metre, leaving the dog on her/his left side, turns around having passed the dog (1–2 m) and returns beside the dog and commands the dog to heel position.

Directions for judging:

Note: In positions exercises the drop for wrong positions is graded more strictly than the drop in other exercises.

The exercise is failed if the dog

- stops in a wrong position, (see exeption below)
- changes a correct position before the handler has turned around, (see exeption below),
- stops before the command,
- gets an extra command on the position or
- if the handler stops before / when commanding the dog.

If, however, the dog has stopped immediately and perfectly on command, but in the wrong position, it can be awarded 6, provided that that exercise is perfect in all other aspects.

If the dog has stopped immediately and perfectly in the correct position on command, but it changes the position before the handler has turned around, it can be awarded 6, provided that the exercise is perfect in all other aspects and the dog only changes a position, does not move from its place

To get a passing grade the dog should not move more than one body length after the command.

The exercise is also failed, if the dog walks to meet the handler or follows the handler when he/she passes the dog and the moved distance is more than one body length. No more than 5 can be awarded if the distance is one body length.

If the dog changes a correct position after the handler has turned around at the cone/marker, no more than 7 should be awarded.

If the handler changes pace / slows down / speeds up before his/her command, no more than 8 can be awarded. Hand signals and body language on the stop (stand/sit/down) command are grave mistakes, and will result in a severe drop of the awarded grade, depending on their strength and duration, the reduction should be 1–5 grades. (See general guidelines § 48).

In judging, attention should be paid to the heelwork as well. For bad heelwork the deduction should be 1–2 grades. Moving and stopping slowly or not stopping in a straight position are mistakes and for this the grade should be lowered by 1–4. If the handler passes the dog from the wrong side, 1 grade should be dropped.

EXERCISE 1.4 Recall

[Coeff. 4]

Commands: “Down” (“Stay”) – “Come” (“Heel”)

Performance: All phases, except the turning around at the marker/cone, are done on instruction of the steward.

The handler commands the dog to lie down and starts walking towards the indicated place 20 – 25 m from the starting point and turns around (independently). On permission from the steward, the handler recalls the dog. The dog’s name may be combined with the recall command, but name and command must be well combined together and may not give the impression of two separate words.

Directions for judging:

It is important that the dog responds willingly to the recall command. The dog should move at good speed and keep its pace, at least a brisk trot. A reluctant approach is a big mistake. The breed and structure of the dog should be taken account of in judging the speed.

If the dog stands or sits up or moves less than one body length before being recalled, no more than 8 can be awarded. If the dog moves more than one body length before the recall, the exercise is failed (=0).

If more than one recall command is given, no more than 8 may be awarded. A third recall fails the exercise (=0).

EXERCISE 1.5 Send away to a square with down [Coeff. 4]

Commands: “Forward” – “Right/left” – (“Stand”) – “Down” – “Sit”
Simultaneous hand signals are allowed in addition to voice commands when the dog is distant, i.e., also the “stand” and the “down” commands.

Description: A square of the size 3 m X 3 m is located approximately 15 metres from the starting point. This 15 m is the distance between the starting point and the middle point of the square. Cones (approx. 10 – 15 cm high) mark the square at each corner. Visible lines (e.g. tape, chalk lines, bands) should connect the cones on their outer side. The distance from the borders of the square to the nearest ring borders should be at least approx. 3–5 metres.

See figure for exercise 1.5

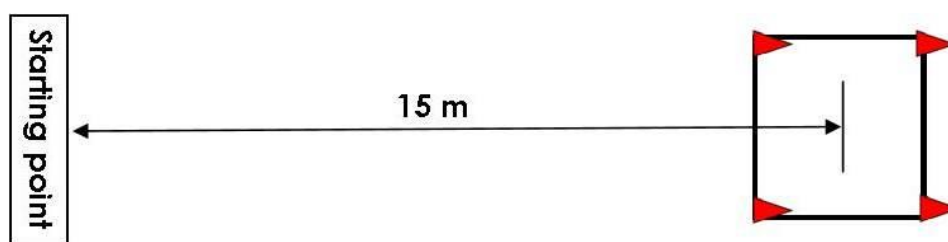


Figure Exercise 1.5 (See Part VII Appendix 5 for details of composing the square)

Performance: Before starting the exercise, the handler should inform the judge whether he/she will command the dog first to stand and then to lie down in the square, or to lie down directly in the square. All other commands except the stand, down and redirecting commands are to be given on permission of the steward.

The dog must follow the commands e.g., if a stand command is given in the square, it must stand, and if it is commanded to lie down directly, the down should be immediate.

The grade is dropped if the dog acts on its own. This means that e.g. the “stand” and/or “down” commands in the square must be given.

When the steward gives permission, the handler directs the dog from the starting point into the square. The dog should move in a straight line to the square and should enter the square from the front.

When the dog reaches the square, the handler commands the dog either to stand and then to lie down, or to lie down directly. If the dog is commanded to stand, the stand position should be clear and stable (~3 sec.) before the down command is given. The handler gives the stand and/or down commands independently.

When told, the handler walks towards his/her dog, and takes position beside the dog and commands, on instruction of the steward, the dog to heel position.

To avoid a reduction for extra commands the handler should not use more than four commands during this exercise. Four commands includes the stand command in the square. Alternatively the handler can command the dog directly to lie down and thus use only three commands. If the dog has to be redirected, hand signals may be combined with the directing command.

Hand signals may be combined with vocal commands when the dog is at a distance.

Directions for judging:

The dog's willingness to follow commands and directing commands, the dog's tempo and a straight route should be emphasised.

Showing the dog directions (e.g. the square), or touching the dog at the starting point, (even before the start of the exercise), will lead to failing the exercise. One “handtouch” is allowed before the start, but this means that the dog touches the handler and not vice versa, and it may not give any impression of showing places or directions. See general guidelines § 20 & § 53.

If the handler moves (takes steps in any direction) while giving the commands, the exercise is failed (=0). If there is excess action (body language), no more than 8 should be given.

Hand signals are only allowed if the dog has to be directed/redirected. A hand signal given when the dog is beside the handler, deducts the grade (-2).

If the dog moves slowly or very slowly, only about 7–8 should be awarded.

If the dog acts on his own, the grade is lowered. If the dog stops on its way to the box, or in the box without command, the grade should be dropped by 3.

If the dog sits or lies down outside the square, it may not be redirected and the exercise is failed (=0).

The grade is dropped if the handler uses more than six commands (including the stand command)/ more than five commands (direct down).

The drop of the grade for extra directing /redirecting commands, depends on their strength/intensity and the dog's willingness to obey the commands and thus the deduction can be 1 – 2 /command.

The square

If the dog enters the square from the side or from the back, the grade is dropped by ($\frac{1}{2}$ – 1).

To get a passing grade, the dog's whole body must be inside the square. The tail, however, does not have to be inside the border.

If the dog is stopped on command (to stand) and it stops in the vicinity of the square or at the borderline and the dog needs to be redirected into the square, a new stand command must be given in the square before the down command / or the direct down command must be given after the extra stand and redirecting command has been given. In both cases the drop is -2, provided that the dog's responses are quick and positions clear.

If the dog takes a wrong position (on command) in the square, the grade is lowered by 2, and if the standing position is not clear and stable or if it is too short, 1–2 grades are dropped.

If the dog takes the wrong position, acting on its own, the grade is deducted by 3.

The exercise is failed (=0), if the dog moves out of the square before the end of the exercise. If the dog moves or creeps in the square, or if it is sniffing, the deduction should be 1–3. If the dog changes position before the handler has reached it / has arrived beside the dog, the grade should be dropped by 2–3. No more than 8 can be awarded, if the dog rises to a sitting or a standing position before the handler has given the command.

For a second stand and down command the deduction is 1 (in Class 1). The exercise is failed (=0), if even one of these commands (stand or down) has to be given a third time.

EXERCISE 1.6 Distance control, sit /down, 4 changes [Coeff. 4]

Commands:

“Down” – (“Stay”) – “Sit” – “Down”

Simultaneous hand signals are allowed in addition to voice commands on position changes. One hand or both hands may be used.

Description: The starting point is between two markers that are approximately 0,8 – 1 m apart. An imaginary line connecting the two markers forms a boundary. The dog should change positions four times (**sit-down-sit-down**) according to the handler's commands and it should remain in its original place. according to the handler's commands and it should remain in its original place.

The steward shows the handler, using written signs or drawings, or an electrical display board, when to command the next position and what the next position is. The steward should stand approximately 3–5 m from the dog, so that he/she is not able to see the dog when displaying the positions. The steward should change the sign about every 3 seconds.

Performance:

The handler commands, when instructed, his/her dog to lie down at the starting point in front of the imaginary line (boundary) so that the boundary forms a tangent.

The handler leaves the dog and moves to an assigned place approx. 5 m in front of the dog and turns around to face the dog. The dog should change positions four times and the taking of the positions is always **sit – down – sit – down**, and thus the last command for changing position should be “down”. The steward changes the sign about every 3 seconds.

The handler must use voice commands. When the handler is distant from the dog, he/she may accompany the voice commands with hand signals, but they must be short and given simultaneously with the voice commands. After the last “down” command, the handler returns to the dog and commands (on the steward's instruction) it to heel position (sit).

Directions for judging:

Emphasis should be on the speed at which positions are changed, the clearness of the positions, and how well the positions are held, and how much the dog moves.

If the dog moves more than one body length in total from the starting point in any direction the exercise is failed (=0). If the dog moves one body length, no more than 6 can be awarded. In assessing the distance of movement, all the moved distances are added together (back and forth, sideways, etc.).

If the dog misses one position of the four, e.g. takes one wrong position or has had a third command on a position, no more than 7 may be awarded. If the dog misses two positions, no more than 5 may be awarded.

No more than 8 can be awarded, if the dog once needs two commands on a position change. Disobeying a second command on a position leads to missing that position. I.e. the first time a second command is given on a position, the grade drops by 2 and the next time(s) positions needs a second command the drop is 1 for the extra command.

A third command may be given on a position if it can be done within the time limit, (but this position is missed) so that the next position change can be carried out.

Extensive use of voice and exaggerated or long-lasting hand signals drop the grade (See general rules.)

If the dog sits up before the handler returns, no more than 8 should be given

Extra/second commands given from heel position to starting position and from down to the heel position at the end, drop the grade in accordance with the general rules i.e. -1 for class 1.

EXERCISE 1.7 Jumping a hurdle and retrieving a dumbbell [Coeff. 4]

Command: “Jump” – “Retrieve” – “Release” – (“Heel”)

The owner may use his/her own wooden dumbbell, but suitable dumbbells should also be available at the competition site.

Performance: The handler stands in front of a hurdle at the distance of approximately 2 – 4 m from the hurdle (handler’s choice) with the dog sitting in heel position. The height of the hurdle should be adjusted approximately to the height of the dog’s height at the withers but not higher than 50 cm.

The steward hands over the wooden dumbbell to the handler. The handler throws the dumbbell over the hurdle. The handler commands the dog to jump over the hurdle, retrieve the dumbbell and jump back. The “retrieve” command should not be given later than when the dog starts his jump. The handler may use his/her own dumbbell, but the judge should check that it is wooden and similar as the ones described in these directions. All other commands except “retrieve” are to be given on permission of the steward.

Directions for judging:

If the dog needs to search for the dumbbell for a short moment and is working actively, the grade should not be dropped. If the dog touches the hurdle even slightly when jumping, the maximum grade is 8. If the dog supports itself on the hurdle, the exercise is failed (=0).

If the dog jumps over the hurdle only in one direction but retrieves the dumbbell, no more than 6 may be awarded. If both jumps are missed, the exercise is failed. It is also failed (=0) if the dog does not retrieve the dumbbell. If the hurdle falls over, the exercise is failed (=0). If the dog anticipates the command, 2–3 grades should be lowered.

A second command reduces the grade by 1 i.e., a second “retrieve” or “jump” command. If the dog leaves its position as the dumbbell is thrown, the exercise is failed.

For dropping the dumbbell and for chewing or biting on the dumbbell see the general guidelines for judging exercises.

EXERCISE 1.8 Send away round a group of cones /a barrel and return **[Coeff. 4]**

Command: “Around” – “Right/left” – (“Heel”)

Simultaneous hand signals are allowed in addition to voice commands if redirecting is needed.

Description: A group of cones (3–6) or a barrel (both approximately 40–50 cm high) are placed at the distance of approximately 10 metres from the starting point. The layout of the exercise is shown in the figure below.

Some alternatives for placing the cones are shown in Part VII Appendix 4.

In Class 1, there should not be big spaces between the cones. This might provoke running between the cones.

The dog may not see the placing of the cones/barrel and therefore they should be placed before the handler stands at the starting point.

Performance: The handler stands with the dog in heel position at the starting point facing the cones / barrel. The steward announces the start of the exercise. On instruction, the handler sends the dog to run around the cones/barrel. The dog’s path may be clockwise or counterclockwise around the cones/barrel. The dog should run around the cones / barrel and return to the handler, focusing towards the middle /towards the handler and take the heel position. The ideal is not to do a close (tight) turn around the cones /barrel. Depending on the breed, approximately half a metre for middle sized breeds and up till one metre for large breeds are suitable distances.

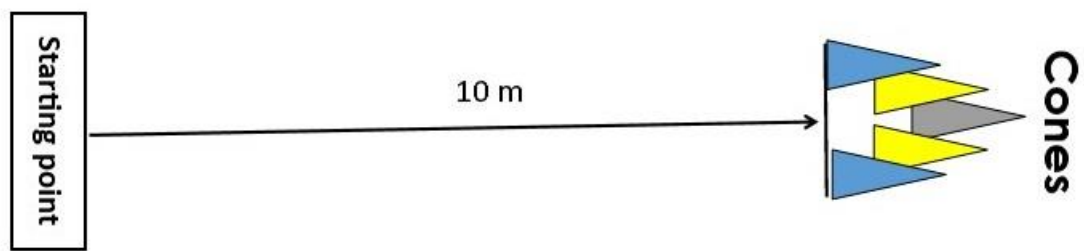


Figure: Exercise 1.8

Directions for judging:

Emphasis should be on the dog's willingness to follow the commands and directive commands, the dog's tempo and taking a reasonably short way, but leaving a suitable/clear distance from the cones/barrel. Symmetry and focusing on the middle line/towards the handler when returning are also valued. The dog's path may be clockwise or counterclockwise around the cones/barrel.

The dog must show a good and consistent speed, at least a brisk trot. Slow /reluctant working will reduce the grade by 1–5. The breed/structure of the dog should be taken account of when judging the speed and the distance from the cones/barrel.

If the dog turns back way before having reached the cones/barrel, it must be redirected to circle around the cones/barrel. The grade drop is 3, provided the dog runs around the cones/the barrel on one redirecting command. (Thus 7 can be awarded provided that the exercise is perfect in all other aspects). If the dog turns having reached the cones/barrel, but not gone around them, no more than 5 can be awarded. An alternative is to redirect the dog to circle around the cones /barrel and thus the drop is only 3 grades.

If a recall command is given, no more than 8 can be awarded. If the dog makes two turns round the cones, no more than 8 can be awarded.

Failing the exercise (0):

- if the dog turns before it has reached the cones,
(it should have reached the distance of ~ 1½–2 m or less from the foremost (anterior) cone /barrel),
- if a third “around” command is given or
- if a second recall command is given.

If the dog needs to be redirected, hand signals may be combined with the directing command. The breed and structure of the dog should be taken account of in judging the tempo.

If the dog touches or collides with a cone /cones or the barrel, 1 – 3 grades are lowered, depending on forcefulness / intensity of the collision. If the dog knocks over a cone / cones, 2–3 grades are dropped. If the dog runs between the set of cones not more than 7 can be awarded.

Showing the dog directions or touching the dog at the starting point will lead to failing of the exercise. (See general guidelines § 20 & 53.)

EXERCISE 1.9 General impression

[Coeff. 2]

Directions for judging:

When judging the general impression, the dog's willingness to work and obey the commands are essential. Accuracy and precision are important, as well as natural movements of both the handler and the dog. To get a high score both the handler and the dog must work well as a team, show mutual enjoyment in working together and good sportsmanship. The activities during and between the exercises influence the score given for the general impression.

If the dog is out of control and leaves the handler during or between the exercises (even once), but stays in the ring, no more than 7 may be awarded for the general impression, provided that the dog has returned (not more than two recalls). If the dog does not return to the handler, or if it leaves a second time, it is disqualified.

If the dog leaves the ring, during an exercise or between exercises but returns immediately on recall (two recalls), no more than 5 may be awarded.

If the dog relieves itself in the ring, the grade is zero (=0) for the general impression.

Note: Higher grades than those mentioned above can't be awarded, even if the final grade is calculated as an average of the grades awarded by two or more judges judging separate exercises. See general directions for judging § 75.

CLASS 2

EXERCISE 2.1 Lying in a group for 2 minutes.

[Coeff. 3]

Handlers out of sight

Commands: "Down" – ("Stay") – "Sit"

Performance: The dogs should lie down, and the handlers stay hidden for 2 minutes. There should be at least three dogs in a group, but no more than six. The dogs must enter the ring without leash, but they must have a collar. The dogs are commanded "down" and "sit" one by one. The steward tells when to give the commands and directs all phases. The dogs are subjected to distractions, e.g., a person weaving between the dogs.

The exercise starts when all handlers of the group stand in a row at the distance of approximately 3 metres from each other with their dogs in heel position and the steward announces: "Exercise starts". The handlers command their dogs to lie down from heel position one by one, on the steward's instruction. The order is from left to right (1→ 6)

The handlers leave their dogs walking straight forward together, in a row, to the ringside and then out of sight of the dogs. The two-minute period starts when all the handlers are out of sight. When 2 minutes have elapsed, the handlers are instructed to walk back together into the ring and to align inside the ring facing their dog. The handlers are then told to walk up behind their dogs, passing them at the distance of approximately 0,5 m and to stop approximately 3 m behind their dogs and to turn around. The handlers are then instructed to walk up beside their dog and told to command their dog to heel position (one by one from right to left (6→1)) so that the first dog to lie down is the last one to sit up. The exercise ends when the handlers have returned to their dogs and all dogs have taken their heel position, and the steward has announced the end of the exercise.

The handlers should be reminded that they are not to give their commands too loudly. This might affect the other dogs and will also result in a strong dropping of the grade.

Directions for judging:

If the dog reacts (lies down or sits up) before the handler's command, on a neighbour's "down" or "sit" command, no more than 8 can be awarded. If the dog acts independently, no more than 7 can be awarded. If the dog has reacted too early (lying down or sitting up), it should remain in this position (lying down or sitting up). Failing to do so at the beginning of the exercise leads to failing the exercise (=0). At the end of the exercise, if the dog sits up independently and lies down again, no more than 6 can be awarded. No more than 7 can be awarded, if a dog lies on its side (flank). If it fails to sit up at the end, no more than 7 can be awarded.

A dog that fails to lie down (two commands), stands up, or sits while the handlers are out of sight, or crawls more than its own body length or lies on its back, fails the exercise (0). If the dog sits or stands up after the two-minute period is over and the handlers have already lined up inside the ring, no more than 6 can be awarded. If the dog also moves from its place, the exercise is failed (0).

All movement reduces the grade. Restlessness, such as shifting weight from one side or one foot to another, reduces the grade. The dog may turn its head and look around, and it may show interest if there is a distraction or noise inside or outside the ring. This, however, should not give an appearance of restlessness or anxiety.

If the dog barks a few barks, 1–2 grades are reduced; if it barks several times (clusters), the grade is lowered even more. If it barks most of the time, the exercise is failed (=0). This same also applies to whining.

If a dog stands up and goes close to another dog, so that there is a risk of severe disturbance or of a fight, the exercise must be stopped, and then resumed for all other dogs in the group, except for the dog that caused the disturbance.

EXERCISE 2.2 Heelwork

[Coeff. 4]

Command: “Heel”

Performance: Note: The general directions describe performing and judging heelwork in detail. See general guidelines for performing heelwork § 27–32

The aim of heelwork is that the dog consistently and actively follows the handler with good contact at his/her left side keeping its position and distance from the handler throughout the schema, also on turns, turnabouts, halts, and different speeds.

Class 2 heelwork is tested at different speeds, normal, slow, and fast pace, in conjunction with turns and turnabouts and halts. There should be a clear difference in speed between normal pace and slow pace as well as between normal pace and fast pace. The dog must also be tested when the handler moves two or three steps forwards and backwards, as well as a short distance of walking directly backwards (5–8 steps /2–3 metres). Walking backwards starts from a stop and ends in a stop. The steward tells when to start and when to stop. It should be ensured that the path for walking backwards is even and safe. All competitors in one trial or competition should do the heelwork according to the same schema / distances.

Time suggestion: Approximately 2 min. Take into consideration that some breeds/handlers take slightly more or less time when walking the same schema (distances).

Directions for judging:

Note: The general directions describe performing and judging heelwork in detail. See general guidelines for judging heelwork § 63. These should be followed but also the class should be taken account of when judging heelwork.

A dog that leaves the handler or follows the handler at the distance of more than half a metre during a major part of the exercise, fails the exercise (=0). If the handler and dog move slowly (in normal pace or fast pace), 2–4 grades should be lowered. Lagging is a big mistake and should drop 2–5 grades.

Lack of contact and extra commands are mistakes. An imperfect direction (not parallel, crabbing) during the heelwork should result in a loss of about 1–3 grades. Slowing down and stopping before, during or after turns and before stops will reduce the grade.

The movement of the dog (and handler) in heelwork must be natural. Unnatural positions of the dog and exaggerations are big mistakes. This applies also to the handler. These can even fail the exercise.

The distance between dog and handler must be distinct. The grade should be lowered, if the dog walks very near to the handler, more so if it disturbs or hinders the handler, and the grade should be dropped even more if the dog leans on or touches the handler.

Some caution, on part of the handler, is allowed when walking backwards. No more than 1–2 grades should be dropped, if the heelwork during walking backwards is not quite perfect.

EXERCISE 2.3 Stand and/or sit, and/or down under march [Coeff. 3]

Commands: “Heel” (3 times) – “Stand”/”Sit”/”Down” – “Stand”/”Sit”/”Down”

Description: The exercise is performed according to the enclosed figure. The dog takes two out of the three positions stand/sit/down. The judge has decided which two positions the dog should take and in which order. There should be a turn left or a turn right. The positions and the turning direction are the same for all competitors. The starting point, turning point (left/right, 90°) and end point should be marked f. ex. with small cones.

The judge/steward should inform the handlers before the competition (or the beginning of the class) which two positions will be used, and in which order, as well as the direction of the turn.

The place for the stops (stand/sit/down) will be approximately at the middle point (~5 m) of the 10-metre line segment. See figures below

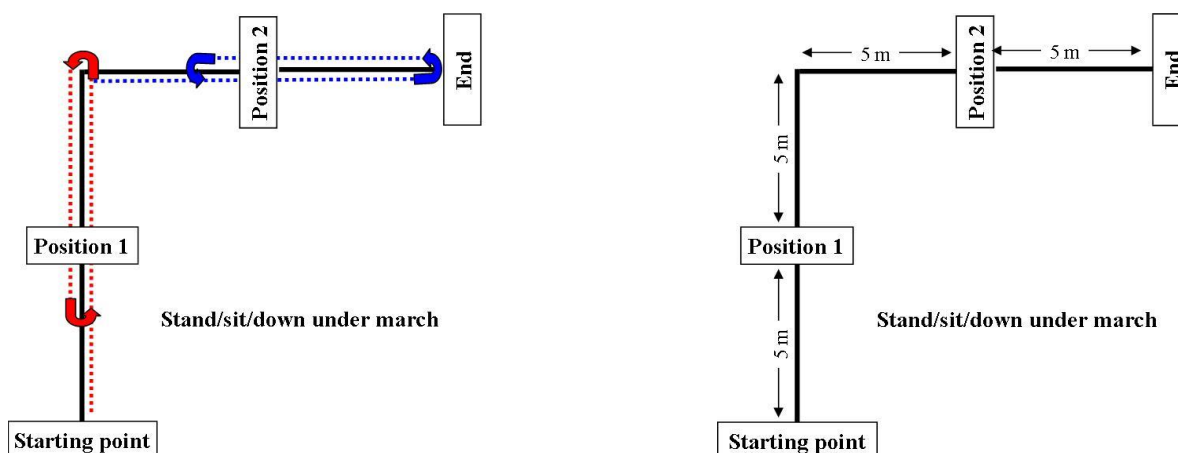


Figure Exercise 2.3

Performance: The steward will instruct the handler when to start, when to command the dog to stand/sit/down, when to turn around, and when to stop at the end. The turns at the corners are done independently as well as taking the dog along after the stops.

Handler and dog leave the starting point walking at normal pace straight beside the first line segment towards the first turning point. Having walked half the distance (~5 m), the handler commands, on instruction from the steward, the dog to take the first position (stand/sit/down) and the dog must take the correct position immediately. A second command is not allowed on a position. This will fail the position.

The handler continues to walk ~5 m forward beside the line segment (approximately to the next turning point), turns around on command of the steward, continues to walk back towards his dog, passes his dog at the distance of approx. 0,5 m leaving the dog to his left side, continues to walk approx. 2 m behind the dog, turns around on command of the steward, and walks up towards his dog. Upon reaching his dog, the handler takes the dog along giving the heel command without stopping, slowing down, or increasing pace.

The exercise continues in a similar way as the first phase of the exercise. Correspondingly, after the turn (right/left) and having walked ~5 m towards the second point (end point), the handler commands the dog to take the second position and proceeds as at the first line segment.

The stand-, sit- and down positions should be parallel to the imaginary lines connecting the starting/turning/ending points. The distance between the dog and the turning points should be approx. 0,5 m taking into account the size of the dog. The corners should be 90°, not rounded off. The handler and dog should pass the corner cones from the right-hand side leaving them on the left side. The pace should be natural, not slower/faster than a normal heelwork pace.

Directions for judging:

Note: In positions exercises the drop for wrong positions is graded more strictly than the drop in other exercises.

To get a passing grade for the exercise, at least one position must be performed correctly. If the dog fails one position, no more than 7 can be awarded for the exercise.

Failing (= missing) a position

The dog fails a position,

- if it takes a wrong position,
- if it moves more than one body length after the command,
- if it changes a correct position,
- if the handler gives a second command on the position,
- if it, having stopped once, resumes moving and moves more than one body length,
- if strong hand signals or strong body language are used on a position.

If the dog completely fails to stop at a position i.e., has not stopped before the handler has turned around, the exercise is failed (=0). A second command can be used to stop the dog, and if the dog stops before the handler has reached the next turning point, the exercise can be continued, but no more than 6 can be awarded.

In judging, attention should be paid to the heelwork and to the positions (stand/sit/down) being parallel to the imaginary lines connecting the starting/turning/ending points.

Moving, standing/sitting/lying down slowly, not taking straight positions, bad heelwork, changing pace, slowing down / speeding up before commands, rounded corners and not keeping the correct course (parallel to the imaginary connecting lines), and turning to look at the dog are mistakes. The reduction for such mistakes should be 1–4 grades. If the handler passes the dog from the wrong side, 1 grade should be deducted.

No extra commands are allowed on the positions. If extra commands are given, this fails the position concerned.

Hand signals and body language on the stand/sit/down commands are grave mistakes and must cause a severe deduction. Depending on their strength and duration, the position is failed, or the grade can be deducted by 1–5. See General guidelines § 48.

EXERCISE 2.4 Recall with stand

[Coeff. 3]

Commands: “Down” – (“Stay”) – “Come” – “Stand” – “Come” – (“Heel”)

Voice commands must be used in all parts of the exercise. A simultaneous hand signal may be used for the stop command.

[Hand signals: one hand or both hands may be used at the stop]

Description: The recall distance is approximately 25 – 30 metres. When the dog has proceeded half the distance, it is commanded to stop (to stand). The starting point and the halfway point can be indicated for example with a small cone, half sphere, etc. The halfway point is indicated by placing the cone or some other mark well in sight but clearly aside from the dog’s path. This cone/mark indicates the place for the stop command i.e., the stop command should be given, when the dog is in level with the halfway cone /sign.

Performance: The handler commands the dog to lie down at the starting point and walks approximately 25 – 30 m in the indicated direction and turns around to face the dog. On permission from the steward, the handler recalls the dog. When the dog has covered approximately half of the distance i.e., when it is in level with the cone/mark, the handler commands (independently) the dog to stand. The halfway is marked with a small cone aside from the dog’s path. (Halfway => place for the stand command, not the stopping place for the dog). The dog should start off immediately on recall and begin stopping at once on the command.

When told, (after approximately 3 seconds) the handler recalls the dog to heel position.

All commands must be voice commands and clearly given. A hand signal may be combined with the voice command on the stop. The hand signal must be simultaneous with the voice command and may not outlast the voice command.

The dog’s name may be combined with the recall commands, but name and recall command must be given clearly combined (together, one after another) and may not give the impression of two separate commands.

Directions for judging:

It is important that the dog responds willingly to all recall commands and obeys the stop command accurately. The dog should move at good speed and keep its pace, at least a brisk trot. Slow or reluctant movement and anticipating the stop are mistakes. A very slow or reluctant approach can even be a cause for failing the exercise. The breed and structure of the dog should be taken into consideration in judging speed and the stop. The dog should start off immediately on recall and begin the stop immediately on the command.

If a second recall is needed (either at the start off or after the stop) the grade is dropped by 2. A third recall at the start or after the position results in failing the exercise, as well as altogether four (4) recalls.

If the dog moves more than one body length before the first recall, the exercise is failed (=0). If the dog stands or sits up or moves less than one body length before being recalled, no more than 8 can be awarded.

When evaluating the stop, there can be a slight tolerance on the stopping distance for fast dogs/heavily built dogs, but not for slow dogs. The dog should begin stopping at once on command.

Regardless how fast a dog, for the stop to be regarded as perfect/accurate enough, no more than one body length can be exceeded from the time of command to the stop. A slower dog should be able to do a more accurate stop. Confronting steps is a grave mistake and should drop the grade. If the dog slides, this is equally a mistake and drops the grade correspondingly.

If the stop attempt is not successful and the dog does not stop within approximately 3 body lengths, it must be regarded as if the dog has missed the stop and no more than 7 can be awarded.

If the dog has made no attempt to stop, the exercise is failed (=0).

If the dog stops in a wrong position, or if the dog changes the stand position, 2 grades are dropped, provided that the stop was otherwise excellent.

EXERCISE 2.5 Send away to a square, down and recall [Coeff. 4]

Commands:

“Forward” – “Right/left” – (“Stand”) – “Down”, – “Come”

Simultaneous hand signals, when the dog is distant, are allowed in addition to voice commands i.e., also the “stand” and “down” commands.

Description: A square of the size 3 m X 3 m is located approximately 23 metres from the starting point. This 23 m is the distance between the starting point and the middle of the square. Cones (approx. 10 – 15 cm high) mark the square at each corner. Visible lines (e.g. tape, chalk lines, bands) should connect the cones on their outer side. There should be at least an approx. 3–5 metre distance from the borders of the square to the nearest ring borders. See figure for *composing the square Part VII Appendix 5*

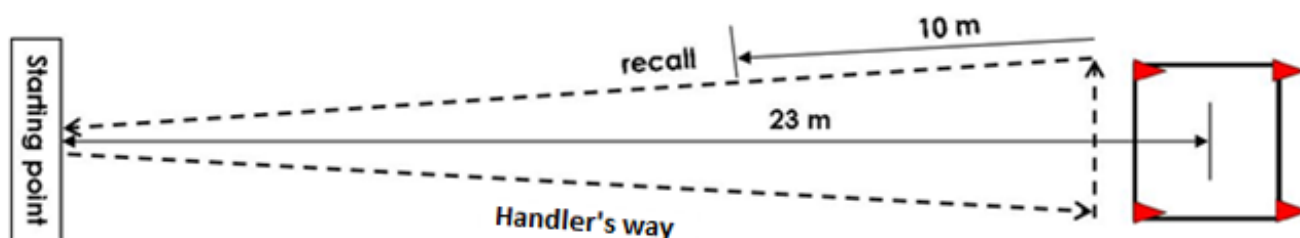


Figure Exercise 2.5 (See Part VII Appendix 5 for details of composing the square)

Performance: Before starting the exercise, the handler should inform the judge whether he/she will command the dog first to stand and then to lie down in the square, or to directly lie down in the square.

All other commands except the stand, down and re-directing commands are to be given after permission of the steward.

The handler should command the dog as stated and the dog must follow the commands e.g., if a stand command is given in the square, it must stand, and if it is commanded to lie down directly, the down should be immediate.

The grade is lowered if the dog acts on its own. This means that e.g. the “stand” and “down” commands in the square must be given.

When the steward gives permission, the handler directs the dog from the starting point into the square (3 m x 3 m).

The dog should move in a straight line to the square and should enter the square from the front.

When the dog reaches the square, the handler commands the dog either to stand and then to lie down, or to lie down directly. If the dog is commanded to stand, the stand position should be clear and stable (~3 sec.), before the down command is given. The handler gives the stand and/or down commands independently.

When told, the handler walks forward in the direction of the righthand cone. When the handler has reached the distance of approximately 2 m from the cone, the handler is told to turn left and after approximately 3 metres the handler is told to turn left again, back towards to the starting point. After approximately 10 m from the second turn, the handler is told to recall the dog while continuing to walk towards the starting point. The recall from the box may be accompanied by a short turning of the handler's head. Having reached the starting point, the handler is told to stop.

To avoid a reduction for extra commands the handler should not use more than four commands during this exercise, one of the four commands being a stand command in the square. Alternatively the handler can command the dog directly to lie down and thus use only three commands. If the dog has to be redirected, hand signals may be combined with the directing commands.

Directions for judging:

The dog's willingness to follow commands and directing commands, the dog's tempo and a straight route should be emphasised.

Showing the dog directions (e.g. the square), or touching the dog at the starting point, (even before the start of the exercise), will lead to failing the exercise. One "handtouch" is allowed before the start, but this means that the dog touches the handler and not vice versa, and it may not give any impression of showing places or directions. See general guidelines § 20 & 53.

If the handler moves (takes steps in any direction) while giving the commands, the exercise is failed (=0). If there is excess action (body language) by the handler, no more than 8 should be given.

Hand signals are only allowed if the dog must be directed/redirected. A hand signal given when the dog is beside the handler, deducts the grade (-2).

If the dog moves slowly or very slowly, only about 6–7 should be awarded.

If the dog acts on his own, the grade is lowered. If the dog stops on its way to the box, or if the dog stops or lies down without a command in the box, the grade should be dropped by 3.

The square

If the dog enters the square from the side or from the back, the grade should be dropped by ($\frac{1}{2}$ – 1).

If the dog sits or lies down outside the square, it may not be redirected and the exercise is failed (=0). To get a passing grade, the dog's whole body must be inside the square. The tail, however, does not have to be inside the border.

If the dog is stopped on command (to stand) and it stops in the vicinity of the square or at the borderline and the dog needs to be redirected into the square, a new stand command must be given in the square before the down command / or the direct down command must be given after the extra stand and redirecting command has been given. In both cases the drop is -2, provided that the dog's responses are quick and positions clear.

If the dog takes the wrong position (on command) in the square, the grade is lowered by 2, and if the standing position is not clear and stable or if it is too short the grade is deducted by 1-2.

If the dog takes the wrong position acting on its own, the grade is deducted by 3.

The exercise is failed (=0), if the dog rises up to sit or stand before the handler's second turn. If the dog rises up (to sit or stand) after the handler's second turn before it is recalled, no more than 7 can be awarded. If the dog moves/creeps in the square without rising, 2-3 grades are deducted. If it moves and crosses the border before the steward's recall command, the exercise is failed (=0). If, however, the dog anticipates the recall command and starts off just slightly before handler's command e.g., on the steward's instruction to recall the dog, 2-3 grades are dropped.

A second recall, stand or down command drops the grade by 2. If even one of these has to be given a third time, the exercise is failed (=0).

EXERCISE 2.6 Directed retrieve

[Coeff. 3]

Commands: "Heel" – "Stand" – "Right/left" – "Retrieve" – "Release" – ("Heel")
Simultaneous hand signals are allowed in addition to voice commands on the directing commands.

Description: Two wooden dumbbells are placed in a row approximately 10 m apart from each other so that they are easily seen. Which dumbbell should be retrieved, is determined by a closed draw.

The starting point is approximately 15 m from the middle of the imaginary line segment joining the two dumbbells.

A small marker (piece of tape, chalk marks, a marker, etc.) is situated approximately 10 m from the centre of the imaginary line segment joining the two dumbbells. Thus, the starting point is 5 m from the marker.

After the start of the exercise is announced, the steward places two wooden dumbbells in a row approximately 10 m apart from each other, so that they are easily seen. Despite which dumbbell is to be retrieved, the steward places the dumbbells always in the same order (either always from left to right or from right to left) and in the same position for all competitors of the competition. See figure for exercise 6 of Class 2. The handler and dog stand at the starting point facing the marker (facing the midpoint of the imaginary line segment, joining the two dumbbells). The start of the exercise is announced.

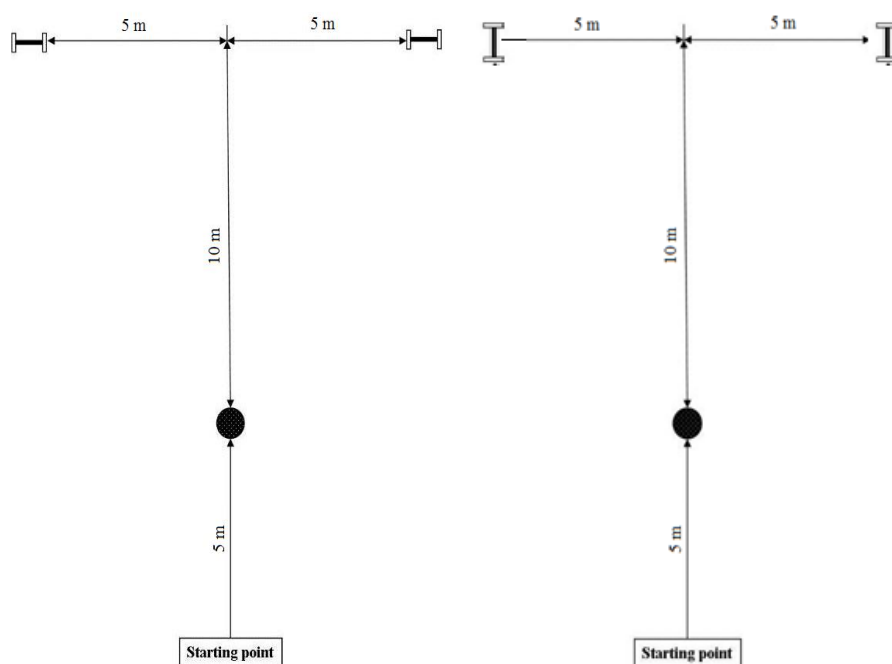


Figure **Exercise 2.6** The dumbbells can be placed vertically or horizontally and should be placed at least 3 m from the borders of the ring.

Performance: Handler and dog stand at the starting point facing a marker at the distance of approximately 5 m. After the start of the exercise has been announced and the dumbbells have been placed, the handler is told to walk with his dog from the starting point towards the marker, pass the marker (1–2 m) and turn around on the command of the steward, after which he/she should command the dog (independently) to stand at the marker, facing the starting point. The handler leaves the dog and returns to the starting point and turns towards the dumbbells. The handler should not stop when commanding and leaving his dog. After about 3 seconds, the handler is told to direct the dog to the correct dumbbell that has been determined by draw, and the dog should retrieve and deliver the dumbbell correctly. The directing command (right/left) and the retrieve command should be given close together, thus a late retrieve command will be interpreted as an extra command.

Directions for judging:

Emphasis should be on the dog's willingness to retrieve, to follow the directive commands and stop command, the dog's tempo and taking the shortest way to the correct dumbbell.

Showing the dog directions or touching the dog at the starting point will lead to failing of the exercise (=0). (Hand touch, dog touching handler, is allowed, see general directions.)

To obtain a passing grade, the dog may not move more than one body length from its standing place at the marker before commanded to retrieve.

A dog that lies down or sits (wrong position) or moves at the marker, cannot get more than 8. If the dog moves more than one body length from its standing position before the retrieve command, the exercise is failed (=0).

The reduction for extra directing /redirecting commands depends on their strength and the dog's willingness to obey the commands. It can be 1–2 grades/command.

If the dog clearly goes to the wrong dumbbell and is stopped and redirected to the correct one and the dog brings the correct one, no more than 7 can be awarded. If the dog is redirected from a wrong direction/dumbbell without a stop, 2 grades should be dropped.

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

For dropping the dumbbell and for chewing or biting on the dumbbell, see the general guidelines for judging exercises.

EXERCISE 2.7 Scent discrimination and retrieve

[Coeff. 4]

Commands: "Seek" – "Release" – ("Heel")

Performance: The handler stands at the starting point with the dog in heel position and the steward announces the start of the exercise and gives the handler a wooden retrieve object (10 cm x 2 cm x 2 cm), which has been marked beforehand with an identification. A pencil or ballpoint pen should be used, not e.g. felt-tip pen, marker pen, magic marker, etc.). The handler may keep the object in his/her hand for approximately 10 seconds. The dog is not allowed to touch or scent the object at this stage. The steward tells the handler to hand over the object and to turn around. The handler decides whether the dog does or does not see when the objects are positioned. Heel and stay commands are allowed.

The steward walks about 10 metres from the handler to place the six identical objects on the ground / the floor, including the handler's object, without touching the handler's object. The steward places the other five (5) objects by hand and thus touches them. The objects are placed in a circle, a horizontal line, or a vertical line and approximately 25 cm apart from each other. The objects should be placed in the same pattern for all competitors. The position of the handler's object may vary from one competitor to another. In the case of a horizontal or vertical line, the handler's object should not be the outermost object at either end of the line.

The handler is then told to turn around and to command the dog to retrieve the handler's marked object. The dog should find the handler's object, retrieve it and deliver it to the handler in accordance with the general directions.

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

Directions for judging:

Emphasis should be on the dog's willingness to work, on effectivity and tempo. The exercise is failed (=0), if the dog is allowed to scent or touch the object at the beginning of the exercise before it is handed back to the steward, and also if commands are given when the dog is at the objects.

If the dog picks up a wrong object once but then brings the correct one, no more than 7 may be awarded. The exercise is failed if the dog picks up a wrong object twice.

The exercise is not failed if the dog sniffs at the objects or very slightly touches the objects when looking for the correct one.

The grade is dropped if the dog shoves / moves / pokes the object(s) or if it needs to make sure of the correct object several times. The drop is $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 for a move or poke. One short re-checking, however, should not necessarily drop the grade, provided that the work is systematic and efficient.

For dropping the object and for chewing or biting on the object see the general guidelines for judging exercises

EXERCISE 2.8 **Distance control**

[Coeff. 4]

Commands:

"Down" – ("Stay") – 2x ["Sit" / "Stand" / "Down"] – sit

Simultaneous hand signals are allowed in addition to voice commands on position changes. One hand or both hands may be used.

Performance: The dog should change positions 6 times (**sit / stand / down**) according to the handler's commands and remain in its original place.

The starting point is between two markers that are approximately 0,8 – 1 m apart. An imaginary line connecting the two markers forms a boundary. The handler commands, when instructed, his/her dog to lie down at the starting point in front of the imaginary line (boundary) so that the line forms a tangent.

The handler leaves the dog and moves to an assigned place approx. 10 m from the dog and turns around to face the dog. The order of taking the positions should always be **sit – stand – down or stand – sit – down**. Each position should be done twice and the last command for changing position should be “down”. The order of taking the positions should be the same for all competitors.

The steward shows the handler, using written signs or drawings, or using an electrical display board, when to command the next position and what the next position is. The steward should stand approximately 3 – 5 metres from the dog, and so that he/she is not able to see the dog, when displaying the instructions. The steward should change the sign about every 3 seconds.

The handler must use voice commands and they may be accompanied with hand signals when the handler is at distance from the dog. Both voice commands and hand signals must be short and used simultaneously. After the last “down” command, the handler returns to the dog and commands (on the steward's instruction) it to sit.

Directions for judging:

Emphasis should be on the speed at which positions are changed, the clearness of the positions, how straight the positions are, how well the positions are held, and how much the dog moves.

If the dog moves more than its body length in total from the starting point, in any direction, the exercise is failed (=0). If the dog moves one body length, it cannot score more than 5. In assessing the distance of the movement, all the moved distances are added together (back and forth, sideways, etc.).

If the dog misses one position of the six, no more than 7 should be awarded, and if it misses two positions, no more than 5 should be awarded. Also, if the dog jumps over one position, and takes the next position instead, no more than 5 can be awarded.

The dog must change positions at least four times on command to get a passing grade.

No more than 8 can be awarded, if the dog once needs two commands on a position change/to take a correct position. Disobeying a second command on a position leads to missing that position. I.e. the first time a second command is given on a position, the grade drops by 2 and the next time(s) a position needs a second command the drop is 1 for the extra command.

A third command may be given on a position (but this position is missed) so that the next position change can be carried out, if it can be done within the time limit.

Extensive use of voice and exaggerated or long-lasting hand signals drop the grade. (See general rules.)

If the dog sits up before the handler returns, no more than 8 should be awarded.

It is possible to get a passing grade for this exercise even if 3 – 4 of the positions have been achieved only after an extra command, provided that the extra commands are obeyed immediately, and they lead to good, clear positions, and the exercise is otherwise performed well according to description in all other aspects.

EXERCISE 2.9 Send around cones /a barrel, stop and jump a hurdle **[Coeff. 3]**

Commands: “Around” – “Stand /down” – “right/left” – “jump” – (“Heel”)

A simultaneous hand signal may be used in addition for the stop command and directing command (left/right) to the jump.

Description: Before the competition starts, the judge will inform which position, stand or down, the dog should take on its way back to the handler. The position is the same for all competitors.

Two hurdles (one closed with planks and one open with a bar) are placed approximately 5 metres from each other. The height of the hurdles should be adjusted approximately to the dog's height at the withers but not higher than 50 cm.

A group of cones (3–6) or a barrel (both approximately 40–50 cm high) are placed at the distance of approximately 10 metres from the imaginary line segment connecting the hurdles. The layout of the exercise is shown in the figure below and the layout examples for the cones are described in appendix 4.

The stopping place of the dog (approximately 2 metres in front of the cones) may be indicated by placing a pair of cones, a pair of short pieces of tube, a pair of half spheres or some other marks in sight for the handler but clearly aside from the dog's path and inconspicuous to the dog. See figure below.

The dog may not see the placing of the cones/barrel and therefore the cones/barrel should be placed before the handler stands at the starting point.

The handler (or steward or judge) should draw which hurdle the dog should jump (open/close // left/right). At this stage, the handler is not told which direction was drawn. When the dog has run around the cones/barrel and has stopped in the position (stand or down) the handler will be informed which hurdle the dog should jump. The steward says “open/closed command”.

The starting point can be chosen by the handler. It can be from five to seven metres (5–7m) in front of the imaginary connecting line between the hurdles.

Figures for the recommended construction of all hurdles are at the end of these guidelines in Part VII, Appendix 1.1 & 1.2. Suggestions for patterns of the cones are in Part VII Appendix 4.

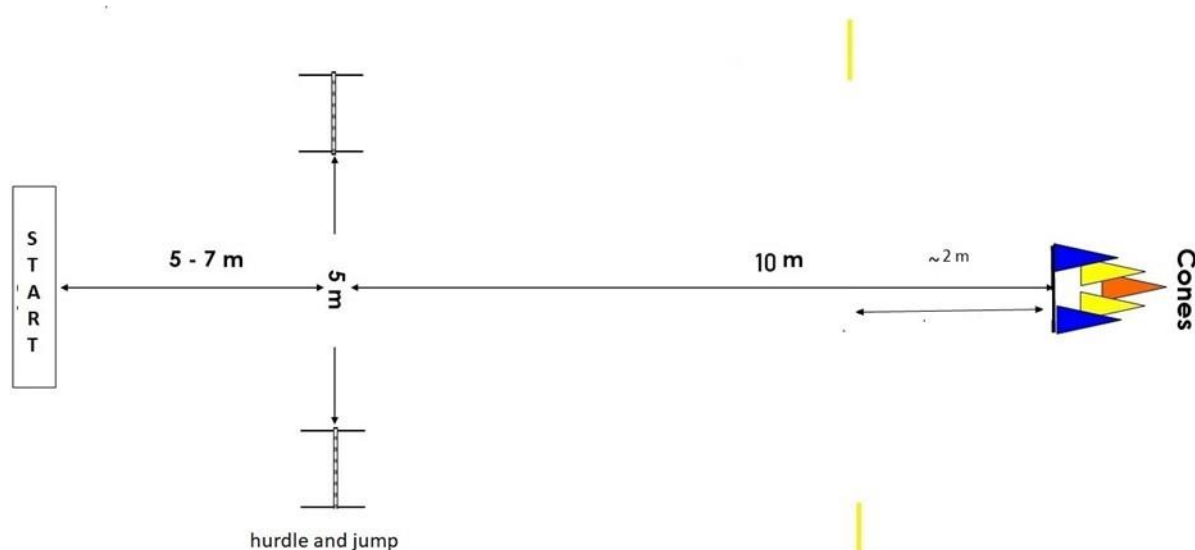


Figure Exercise 2.9. The markers indicating the 2 m distance are optional.

Performance: The handler stands at his/her chosen starting point facing the cones with the dog in heel position. The steward announces the start of the exercise. On instruction the handler sends the dog to run around the cones/barrel. The dog’s path may be clockwise or counterclockwise around the cones/barrel. The ideal is not to do a close (tight) turn around the cones /barrel. There should be a distinct distance between the dog and the cones/barrel. Depending on the breed, approximately half a metre for middle sized breeds and up till one metre for large breeds are suitable distances.

When the dog is on its way back and has clearly passed the cones/barrel by at least ~ 2 metres, the handler independently commands the dog to stop in the position that was determined by the judge. A voice command must be used but may be accompanied by a simultaneous hand signal.

During the stop (appr. 3 sec.) the steward informs the handler which direction/hurdle was drawn "open /closed command". On the steward's command the handler directs the dog to start off and jump the correct hurdle and the dog returns to heel position. The handler should wait for the steward to say "command" before sending/commanding the dog to start off.

The handler is permitted to give a jump command immediately after the dog has started off towards the hurdle.

Directions for judging:

Emphasis should be on the dog's willingness follow the commands and directions, the dog's tempo and taking a reasonably short way, but leaving a suitable distance from the cones/barrel. Symmetry and focusing on the middle line or handler when returning (before the stop), are also valued. The dog's path may be clockwise or counterclockwise around the cones/barrel.

The dog must show a good and consistent speed, at least a brisk trot. Slow/reluctant working will reduce the grade by 1–5. The breed/structure of the dog must be taken account of when judging the speed and the distance from the cones/barrel as well as when judging the stop.

If the dog returns or stops before having reached the cones/barrel, it must be redirected to circle round the cones/barrel. The grade drop is 3, provided the dog runs around the cones/the barrel on one redirecting command. (Thus 7 can be awarded if the exercise is perfect in all other aspects)

The exercise is failed (=0), if the dog does not circle around the cones/barrel.

Having passed the cones, if the dog stops independently (without a command, clearly too early), it should be recalled and stopped again. No more than 7 can be awarded.

In assessing the stop, the willingness to obey the stop command is valued. It is up to the handler to decide when to give the stop command. It may, however, not be before the dog has passed the cones by at least 2 metres.

A dog that takes a wrong position, cannot get more than 8.

If the handler stops the dog too early, but so that it has clearly passed the cone (by at least one metre), 2 grades should be deducted.

If the dog anticipates the commands, the grade should be lowered by 2–3. If it acts independently 3 grades should be deducted.

If the dog needs more than 3X its body length to stop, no more than 7 can be awarded. If the dog does not stop, the exercise is failed.

The dog must remain in its position (stand /down) until the handler's recall / command to jump. If the dog starts off too early after the stop, the grade should be lowered by 2–3. This can even fail the exercise, if the start off is very early (e.g., before steward's command).

If the dog clearly goes to the wrong hurdle and is stopped and redirected successfully to jump the correct one, 3 grades should be dropped. If the dog is redirected successfully from the wrong direction (or hurdle) without a stop, 1–2 grades should be deducted.

The reduction of the grade for extra directing (redirecting) commands depends on their strength and the dog's willingness to obey the commands. It can be 1–2 /command. The reduction for other extra commands should be congruent with the general directions.

If the dog touches or collides with a cone /cones or the barrel, 1 – 3 grades are deducted, depending on forcefulness/ intensity of the collision. If the dog knocks over a cone / cones, 2–3 grades are deducted. If the dog runs between the set of cones no more than 7 should be awarded.

If the dog touches the hurdle when jumping, the grade should be deducted by 2.

If the dog touches or drops the bar of the open hurdle, the grade should be deducted by 2 as well, not more.

Showing the dog directions or touching the dog at the starting point will lead to failing of the exercise. (See general guidelines § 20 & 53.)

Failing the exercise (=0):

- If the dog jumps a hurdle on the way to the cones/barrel, the exercise is failed.
- If the dog needs a second redirecting command for circling round the cones/barrel, i.e., a third "around" command, the exercise is failed.
- If the handler gives the stop command (stand/down) clearly too early, i.e., when the dog is still beside the cones/barrel, the exercise is failed.
- If the dog does not stop on command, the exercise is failed.
- If the dog does not jump the hurdle or jumps the wrong hurdle, the exercise is failed.
- If the dog supports itself on the hurdle, the exercise is failed.
- If the hurdle falls over, the exercise is failed.

- If the handler shows the dog directions or touches the dog at the starting point, the exercise is failed (=0). See general guidelines §20 & 53.

EXERCISE 2.10 General impression

[Coeff. 2]

Directions for judging:

When judging the general impression, the dog's willingness to work and obey the commands are essential. Accuracy and precision are important, as well as natural movements of both the handler and the dog. To get a high score both the handler and the dog must work well as a team, show mutual enjoyment in working together and good sportsmanship. The activities during and between the exercises influence the score for the general impression.

If the dog is out of control and leaves the handler during or between the exercises (even once), but stays in the ring, no more than 5 may be awarded for the general impression, provided that the dog has returned on the first recall. If the dog does not return or if it leaves a second time, it is disqualified.

If the dog leaves the ring during an exercise or between exercises or if it relieves itself in the ring, it is disqualified from the competition. If, however, the dog leaves the ring and goes to the handler outside the ring during exercise 2.1, the dog is not disqualified, but can't get more than 5 for the general impression.

Note, that higher grades than those mentioned above can't be awarded even if the final grades are calculated as an average of two or more judges judging separate exercises. See the general directions for judging § 75.

CLASS 3

EXERCISES 3.1 & 3.2

- Sitting in a group for 2 min. handlers out of sight [Coeff. 2]
- Lying down for 1 min. and recall [Coeff. 2]

The exercises 3.1 and 3.2 are combined, but the grades are given for both parts separately at the end of the both.

Commands: “Sit” – “Stay” — “Down” – “Come”

A simultaneous hand signal may be used for the “down” command.

Description: The dogs must enter the ring without leash, but they must have a collar. There should be at least three dogs in a group, but no more than four. In case of only five entries in Class 3, all five can do the exercise together. See clarification/exception below for competitions of rank.

Exercise 3.1 starts when all handlers of the group stand in a row at the distance of approximately 4 – 5 metres from each other with their dogs in heel position and the steward announces: “Exercise 1 starts”. Exercise ends 3.1 when the handlers have returned inside the ring, facing their dogs at a distance of approximately 10 metres and the steward announces the end of exercise 1 and the beginning of exercise 2.

Exercise 3.2 starts immediately after Ex. 3.1. The dogs should be sitting in a row in their original place. The handlers command their dogs down, one by one from left to right (1→4). The dogs stay down one minute (1 min.) after which the handlers recall their dogs to heel position, one by one from right to left (4→1).

Performance: The handlers stand in a row, with their dogs in heel position. When told, the handlers leave their dogs and walk out of sight of the dogs and stay hidden for 2 minutes. The two-minute period starts when all handlers are out of sight. When 2 minutes have passed, the handlers are instructed to walk back into the ring and line up inside the ring. The handlers are then told to walk forwards and take a standing position approximately 10 metres from the dogs facing the dogs. The steward announces: “End of exercise 1”-----“Exercise 2 begins”.

The steward starts the second part of the exercise immediately by saying: “Exercise 2 begins”. The dogs should be sitting. Handlers of dogs that have taken a wrong position during Ex 1 should command their dogs to the correct position, sit. This is done one by one from right to left (4→1) on instruction by the steward. (See figure below)

The handlers are told to command the dogs down one by one from left to right (1→4). They will be lying for 1 minute after which they will be recalled one by one from right to left (4→1). The recall will be on the steward's command and the steward will move behind the next dog only after the previous dog is in heel position beside the handler. The handlers should be reminded that they are not to give their commands too loudly. This might affect the other dogs and will also result in a strong reduction of the grade. It is up to the judge to decide how handlers with dogs which have failed part 2 from the start, and handlers, who do not wish to recall their dogs, should proceed.

Exercises 3.1–3.2 are perceived as one exercise and thus there is not a possibility for the handler to intervene (rewarding or communicating) in any way between these two exercises. 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 WW competitions and competitions of rank, this arrangement is obligatory.

In case of special competitions of rank with many competitors, such as qualification competitions, championship competitions and international competitions (FCI-CACIOB), the chief judge can make the decision together with the judge(s) assessing the group exercises and the steward, to have five dogs in a group.

Directions for judging exercises 3.1 and 3.2:

A dog that stands up or lies down during ex 3.1 fails this exercise (=0). A dog that leaves its place (more than one body length) fails both exercises 3.1 and 3.2. If a dog lies down or stands up after the two-minute period is over and the handlers have lined up inside the ring, no more than 5 can be awarded. If the dog has moved more than one body length after the lining up (end of exercise 1) ex 3.2 is failed.

Dogs that are standing or lying down after ex. 3.1 has ended, can be commanded one by one to a sitting position. The grade will not be dropped for the first command to a sitting position. If a second command is needed, 2 grades will be dropped. Ex 3.2 is failed (=0), if the dog does not sit even after the second command. If a dog changes position, i.e., from sit to stand or lying down, after Ex 3.2 has started (i.e., the steward has passed the dog when walking from right to left), the handler is not allowed to correct the position anymore. A dog which is already lying down when the phase where the dogs are commanded to lie down begins, cannot be awarded more than 7 and a dog that is standing at this phase, cannot be awarded more than 8 (provided it obeys the "down" command).

If a dog lies down before command (i.e., on a neighbour's command), no more than 8 can be awarded for part 2 and if it lies down quite independently, no more than 7. Ex 3.2 is failed, if the dog does not lie down, if the dog changes position (to sit or stand) during the one-minute period,

moves more than one body length, or lies on its back. No more than 7 can be awarded, if the dog lies on its side(flank).

If a dog comes on another handler's recall command, no more than 6 can be awarded for exercise 3.2. A dog coming without any recall command being given, fails (0) exercise 3.2 If a dog needs a second recall command, no more than 8 can be awarded.

If the dog barks a few barks, 1–2 grades are deducted; if it barks several times(clusters), the grade is lowered even more. If it barks most of the time, the exercise is failed (0). This same also applies to whining.

All excess movement should reduce the grade. Restlessness, such as shifting weight from one side to another, should reduce the grade. The dog may turn its head and look around, and it may show interest if there is a distraction or noise inside or outside the ring. This, however, should not give an appearance of restlessness or anxiety.

A dog that leaves the ring during exercise 3.1 but goes directly to the handler out of sight outside the ring, will fail exercises 3.1 and 3.2, and get a yellow card, but is not disqualified from the competition.

If a dog stands up and goes close to another dog, so that there is fear of disturbance or a fight, the exercise must be stopped and then resumed for all the dogs, except for the dog that caused the disturbance.

EXERCISES 3.3 & 3.4

- Heelwork [coeff. 4]
- Positions under march [coeff. 3]

Description: Exercises 3.3 “Heelwork” and 3.4 “Positions under march” are combined. The combined exercises start with heelwork. The positions under march can be integrated anywhere within the heelwork, during normal, slow, or fast pace. The positions under march must be done successively, one after another.

The exercises 3.3 and 3.4 are judged separately, so it must be clearly indicated when the heelwork (Ex.3.3) is ongoing and when the positions (Ex 3.4) under march is ongoing. The exercise 3.4 starts from a stop and ends in a stop. There are two different phases in the exercise “Positions under march”:

1. return to the dog /take the dog along
2. recall the dog

These both must be included in the exercise.

All dogs in the competition should do the heelwork and positions under march according to the same schema.

It is recommended to adapt the schema and method of execution to the character of the event. The maximum time for the heelwork and the positions under march together should not exceed approximately 4½ minutes.

EXERCISE 3.3 Heelwork [Coeff. 4]

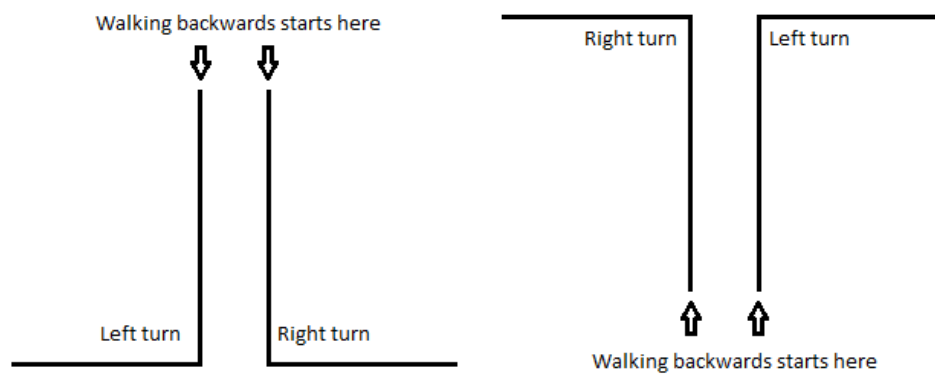
Command: “Heel”

Performance: Note: The general directions describe performing and judging heelwork in detail. See general guidelines for performing heelwork § 27–32

The aim of heelwork is that the dog consistently and actively follows the handler at his/her left side with good contact, keeping its position and distance from the handler throughout the schema, also on turns, turnabouts, halts, and at different speeds.

Heelwork is tested at different speeds, normal, slow pace, and fast pace, in conjunction with turns, turnabouts and halts. There should be a clear difference in speed between normal pace and slow pace as well as between normal pace and fast pace. The dog must also be tested when the handler moves a few steps in different directions from a standing position, and when the handler makes turns and turnabouts from a standing position. The dog must also be tested in walking backwards approximately 5–10 metres (15 – 30 steps). Walking backwards starts from a stop and ends in a stop. Walking backwards must include one turn left or right. The steward tells when to start, when to turn and when to stop. It should be made sure that the path for walking backwards is even and safe. The steward should have some landmarks so that the distance walking backwards can be estimated correctly.

Time suggestion: Exercises 3.3 & 3.4 should not be more than approximately 4½ min altogether. Take into consideration that some breeds/handlers take slightly more or less time when walking the same schema (distances).



Directions for judging:

The general directions describe performing and judging heelwork in detail. See general guidelines for judging heelwork § 63. These should be followed but also the class should be taken account of when judging heelwork.

A dog that leaves the handler or follows the handler at the distance of more than half a metre during a major part of the exercise, fails the exercise (=0). If the handler and dog move slowly (in normal pace or fast pace), 2–4 grades should be lowered. Lagging is a big mistake and should drop 2–5 grades.

Lack of contact and extra commands are mistakes. An imperfect direction (not parallel, crabbing) during the heelwork should result in a loss of about 1–3 grades. Slowing down and stopping before, during or after turns and before stops will reduce the grade.

The movement of the dog (and handler) in heelwork must be natural. Unnatural positions of the dog and exaggerations are big mistakes. This applies also to the handler. These can even fail the exercise.

The distance between dog and handler must be distinct. The grade should be lowered, if the dog walks very near to the handler, more so if it disturbs or hinders the handler, and the grade should be dropped even more if the dog leans on or touches the handler.

Some caution, on part of the handler, is allowed when walking backwards. No more than 1–2 grades should be dropped, if the heelwork during walking backwards is not quite perfect.

EXERCISE 3.4 Positions under march and recall

[Coeff. 3]

Commands: “Heel” – “Stand”/ “Sit”/ “Down” – “Come” – “Heel”
No hand signals

Performance: The positions are stand, sit and down. The judge will decide before the competition which two positions of the three (stand, sit, down) are to be done, the order in which the positions are done, which position includes the recall and what the whole schema will be. The layout and positions of the exercise is the same for all competitors. The positions and details of the exercise are introduced at the beginning of the class or competition for example by displaying a drawing /schema including the positions, recall and walking paths for exercise, 3.4 on a bulletin board.

The exercise starts from a stop and the steward clearly announces, “Start of exercise 3.4” or “start of positions”. Exercise 3.4 can be integrated at any point during exercise 3.3 (Heelwork), but both phases/positions of ex 3.4 must be done the one directly after the other with a short heelwork between (4 – 5 meters). The exercise is performed according to the enclosed figures. One of the positions must include a recall.

All phases of the exercise are done on the instruction of the steward. The details of the exercise, also the turns of the handler, the speed/pace of the handler before and after leaving the dog in position, etc. must be clearly illustrated. The pace of the handler, before and after leaving the dog is typically normal pace.

Fast pace can be used as well, but preferably not in normal national competitions. Fast pace can be used in e.g., championship competitions, international competitions, qualification competitions, or similar competitions of rank.

When the handler has stopped with the dog in heel position and the steward has announced the start of exercise 3.4 /positions, the handler starts off on instruction of the steward. After walking approximately 4–5 metres at normal pace (or fast pace), the steward instructs the handler to command the first position (stand/sit/down) and the handler leaves the dog continuing at normal pace (or fast pace). Having left the dog in the first position, the handler is directed during his/her walk to take a left turn, a right turn, about turn or/and a stop, or to recall the dog, or a combination of these.

After the first position is entirely done, the steward announces, “Second position”. Handler and dog start walking or continue walking (depending on how the first position has been carried out). After a short distance of walking (a few metres, with the dog in heel position) the next position is taken on command the steward as described below.

The exercise (3.4) ends after the second position has been carried out entirely and the steward has given a stop command and the dog is in heel position. The steward announces, “end of exercise 3.4 /end of exercise positions”. They continue with the heelwork of exercise 3.3 or if all of the heelwork exercise is done, both exercised have ended.

Alternatives after the handler has left the dog in position

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------|
| 1. Return to the dog / take the dog along | } | or vice versa |
| 2. Recall the dog | | |

1. Return to the dog

1.1 Walking a straight line back and forth

The handler leaves the dog walking in a straight line a distance of approximately 4–5 metres, the handler turns around and/or stops on the steward’s command, returns passing the dog at a distance of approximately 0,5 m leaving the dog to the left. Having walked past the dog a distance of some 2–3 metres, the handler turns around on command of the steward, walks up towards the dog and having reached the dog.

- stops and commands the dog to heel position and continues according to the instructions of the steward,
or
- continues without stopping and takes the dog along.

1.2 Walking and turning left/right and taking turnabouts.

The handler leaves the dog and walks according to the steward’s instructions (after 2–3 metres of forward walking) taking left turns and/or right turns, and/or turnabouts, and then returns to the dog as described above.

2. Recall the dog

2.1 Walking a straight line and recall

The handler leaves the dog, walking in a straight line a distance of approximately 4–5 metres, stops and turns around on the steward’s commands /turns around and stops on steward’s command. The handler then recalls (only vocal) the dog on the steward’s command. An included hand signal drops the grade by 2.

After the dog is in heel position, the steward announces how to continue, depending on the phase of the exercise.

2.2 Walking and turning left/right and taking turnabouts and recall.

The handler leaves the dog and according to the steward's instructions, takes turns left / right and turnabouts. The handler can be walking in any direction, also behind the dog when the recall is made. The handler continues walking when recalling the dog and continues to walk a few metres with the dog.

The steward announces how to continue, depending on the phase of the exercise.

The recall can be done in several ways so that the handler for example:

- stops and turns around and makes a normal recall or turns around, stops and makes a normal recall or
- is in motion walking away from the dog and does the recall as in the box exercise or
- turns around and walks back towards the dog, passes the dog, and recalls it.

A summing up some directions for stewards:

The steward's commands should be clear and informative so that the judge and handler are aware of the phase of the exercise.

The steward clearly announces the beginning of the positions exercise (3.4). The steward instructs the handler when to start off, when to command the dog to stand/sit/ down, which route to walk, when to turn left or right, when to turn around, when to call the dog into heel position and when to stop.

Suggestions for the steward's commands

- "end of heelwork, start of positions exercise, 1st position with recall"
- "end of 1st position, start of 2nd position"
- "end of positions exercise (3.4), start of/continue with heelwork /exercise 3",
- "end of positions exercise, heelwork exercise/exercise 3 continues,
- "end of both exercises, thank you".

It is advised that the steward clearly informs the handler if he/she should take the dog along when passing it from behind or pass the dog and continue to walk without the dog.

Directions for judging

Note: In positions exercises the drop for wrong positions is graded more strictly than the drop in other exercises.

The short distances of heelwork are also judged and included in the grade for exercise 3.4. To get a passing grade for this exercise 3.4, at least one of the two positions has to be taken correctly. If the dog misses one of the positions, no more than 7 can be awarded, and if the dog misses both positions, the exercise is failed.

The dog fails/misses a position,

- if it takes a wrong position,
- if it moves more than one body length after the command,
- if it changes a correct position,
- if the handler gives a second command on the position,
- if it, having stopped once, resumes moving and moves more than one body length,
- if it clearly starts off before recall (position and recall failed, exercise failed)
- if strong hand signals or strong body language are used on the position.

If the dog stops, but takes the wrong position, the recall can be done, but no more than 7 can be awarded i.e., provided that the recall has been perfect as well as the other position.

If the dog has moved clearly more than one body length or the dog fails completely to stop at a position, no recall can be made from this position and the exercise is failed.

The exercise is failed, if the dog leaves its position and runs to the handler before recall.

If the dog takes the correct position, but does not respond to the recall (two recalls), no more than 7 can be awarded. A second recall or a hand signal on the recall drops 2 grades.

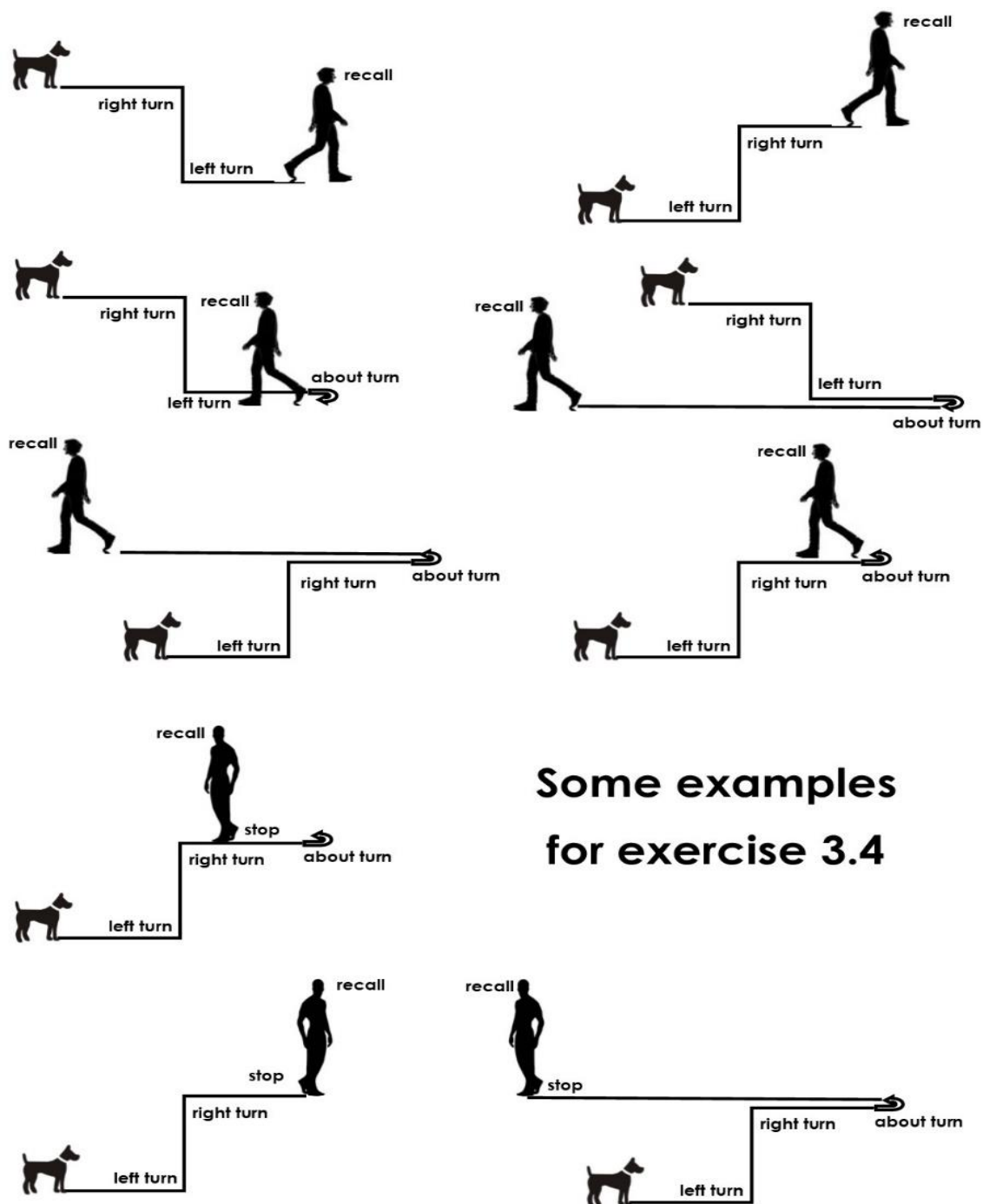
In judging, attention should be paid to the start offs, the heelwork before the stops, taking of positions, connecting with the handler after the stops. The heelwork before the position should be in the same tempo as the other parts of the heelwork (ex 3.3.), i.e., no slowing down or speeding up before the stops (or after the stops).

Moving, standing/sitting/lying down slowly, not taking straight positions, bad heelwork, changing pace, rounded corners (also of handler) and not keeping the correct course and turning to look at the dog are mistakes. The reduction for such mistakes should be 1–5.

No extra commands are allowed on the positions. These will fail the position. Hand signals, body language on the stand/sit/down commands and looking back at the dog are grave mistakes, will severely reduce the grade by 1–5. Depending on their strength and duration they can fail the position.

Summing up:

- Wrong position (1) and good second position + good recall (2) = max 7
- No position (continues walking, no stop at all) + recall (this means no recall), the exercise is failed (= 0), even if second position is OK.
- The stop on one position is clearly too late, but the dog stops eventually, and a successful recall is done, the second position is OK, the exercise is failed (=0) (Due to a very short recall distance)
- Both positions OK, recall unsuccessful max 7



Some examples for exercise 3.4

Figure Exercise 3.4 Some schemas for the composition of exercise 3.4
(See Part VII Appendix 3 for guidelines for the stewards)

EXERCISE 3.5 Recall with stand and/or sit and/or down [Coeff. 3]

Commands: “Down” – “Stay” – “Come” (3 times) – “Stand” – “Sit” – “Down”
Voice commands must be used in all parts of the exercise. Simultaneous hand signals may be used for the stops.
[Hand signals: one hand or both hands may be used]

Description: The recall distance is approximately 30–35 metres. The alternatives for the stop positions are “stand”, “sit”, “down”. Two positions out of these three alternatives are chosen by the judge. The chosen positions and the order of the positions for the competition are notified e.g., on a bulletin board before the start of the competition or the start of class 3.

The starting point, one third and two thirds of the distance are indicated by a cone, half sphere, etc. The 1/3 and 2/3 points should be indicated by placing a cone or some other mark well in sight for the handler but aside from the dog’s path. These marks indicate the places for the stop commands (stand/sit/down) i.e., the stop commands are given when the dog is in level with the cones/signs.

Performance: The handler commands the dog to lie down at the starting point and walks approx. 30–35 m in the indicated direction and turns around to face the dog. On permission from the steward, the handler recalls the dog. When the dog has covered approx. one third of the distance i.e., when the dog is in level with the first cone/sign, the handler commands the dog to its first stop position (stand or sit or down). When told (approximately 3 seconds), the handler recalls the dog again. Having covered approx. two thirds of the distance (dog in level with the second cone), the dog is commanded to its second stop (stand or sit or down). Correspondingly after the second stop and on permission from the steward, the handler calls the dog to heel position.

The handler gives the stop commands independently when the dog is in level with the cone /sign, all other commands are given on instruction of the steward.

All commands must be voice commands and clearly given. Hand signals may be combined with the voice commands on the stops. The hand signals must be simultaneous with the voice commands and may not outlast the voice command.

The dog’s name may be combined with the recall commands, but name and recall command must be given clearly combined (together, one after another) and may not give the impression of two separate commands.

Directions for judging:

It is important that the dog responds willingly to all recall commands and obeys the stop commands accurately. The dog should move at a good speed and keep its pace, at least a brisk trot. Slow or reluctant movement and anticipating the stops are mistakes. A very slow or reluctant approach can even be a cause for failing the exercise. The breed and structure of the dog should be taken account of in judging speed and the stops. The dog should start off immediately on recall and begin the stops immediately on the commands.

If a second recall is needed (either at the start off or after the stops) 2 grades are deducted. A third recall at the start or after the stops, as well as altogether five (5) recalls, results in failing of the exercise.

If the dog moves more than one body length before the first recall, the exercise is failed (= 0). If the dog stands or sits up or moves less than one body length before being recalled, no more than 8 can be awarded.

When evaluating the stop, there can be a slight tolerance on the stopping distance for fast dogs/heavily built dogs, but not for slow dogs. The dog should begin stopping at once on command.

Regardless how fast a dog, for the stop to be regarded as perfect/accurate enough, no more than one body length can be exceeded from the time of command to the stop. A slower dog should be able to do a more accurate stop. Confronting steps is a grave mistake and should drop the grade. If the dog slides, this is equally a mistake and drops the grade correspondingly.

If the stop can't be done within approximately 3 body lengths it must be regarded as if the dog has missed the stop.

If the dog misses one stop/position (i.e., does not stop within the limit of approximately three body lengths), no more than 7 can be awarded.

If there is no attempt to stop at one of the positions, no more than 5 can be awarded. If the dog fails to stop at both positions, the exercise is failed (=0).

If the dog stops once in a wrong position, or if the dog changes a correct position, 2 grades are dropped, provided that the stop was otherwise excellent. If neither of the positions are correct, the exercise is failed.

EXERCISE 3.6 Send away with directions, down and recall [Coeff. 4]

Commands: “Forward” – “Stand” – “Right/left” – (“Stand”) – “Down” – “Come”.
Simultaneous hand signals, when the dog is distant, are allowed in addition to voice commands i.e., also the “stand” and “down” commands.

Description: A circle, 2 m in radius (4 metres in diameter) is located 10 metres from the starting point i.e., the circle’s centre is approximately 10 m from the starting point. The centre of the circle may not be indicated in any way. The circumference of the circle (12.6 m) should be made visible by marking it at least on 8 points (with short visible pieces of tape, chalk, etc.) or marking the whole circumference. The aim of the markings is only to help the handler and judge to evaluate whether the dog is inside or outside the circle. The marking of the circumference should not be conspicuous to the dog. Particularly, if the whole circumference is marked, the contrast between the markings and background should be very slight. Visible strings, canvas, plastic hoses, etc., which are conspicuous and can be clearly seen by the dog, are not allowed.

A square of the size 3 m X 3 m is situated approximately 25 m from the starting point and approximately 23 m from the centre of the circle. These measures are to the centre point of the square. Cones (appr. 10 – 15 cm high) mark the square at each corner. Visible lines (e.g., tape, chalk lines, canvas) should connect the cones on their outer side. (See Part VII Appendix 5)

The angle between the connecting lines of the starting point and the centre of the circle, and between the centre of the circle and the middle of the square, should be 90°. See figures for exercise 6 of Class 3.

The square borders, as well as the circumference of the circle, should be situated no less than approximately 3 m from the borders of the ring.

It should be ensured that no double handling is possible, especially in competitions of rank, such as championship competitions. See figures below Ex 3.6

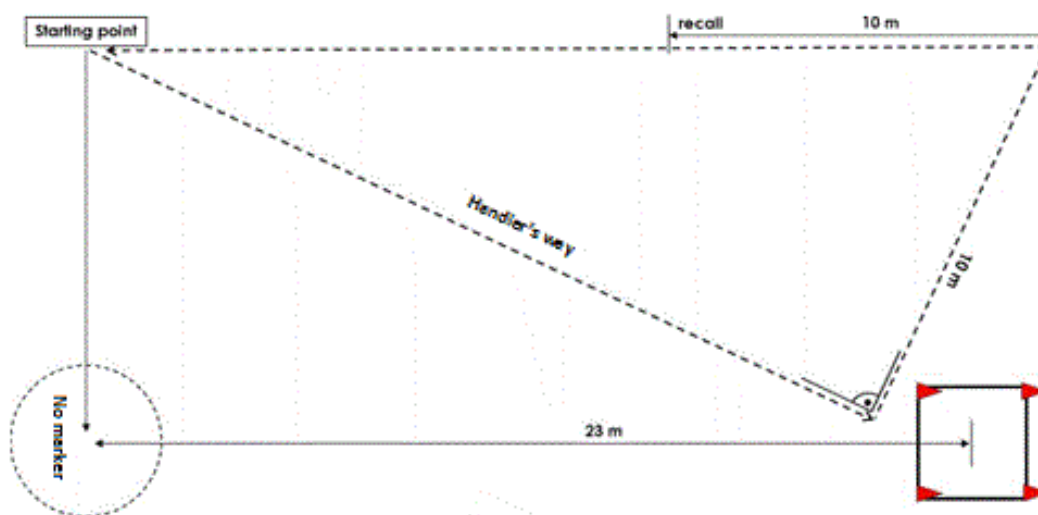


Figure Exercise 3.6 (See Part VII Appendix 5 for details of composing the square)

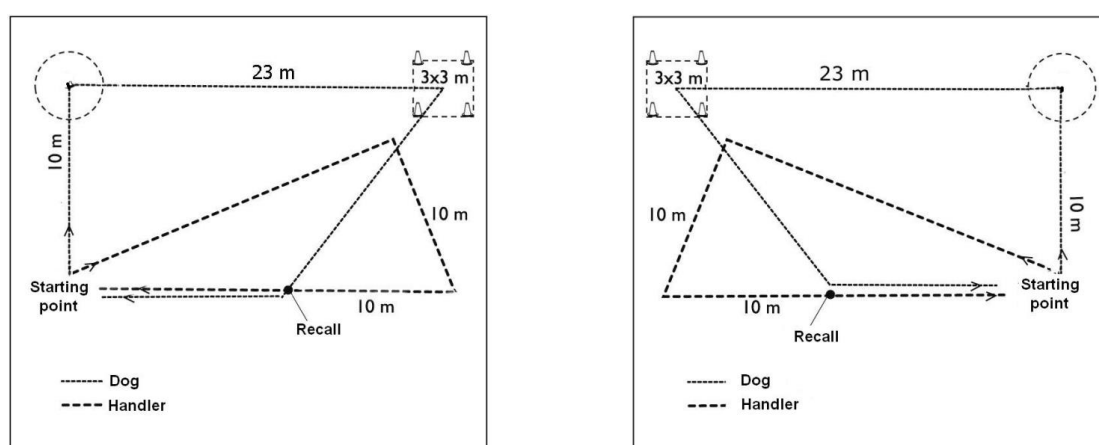


Figure Exercise 3.6 (Layout and walking patterns)

Performance: Before starting the exercise, the handler should inform the judge whether he/she will command the dog first to stand, and then to lie down in the square, or to lie down directly in the square.

The handler sends the dog into the circle and commands it to stand inside the circle. From the circle the dog is sent to a square/box and commanded to lie down inside the square / or commanded to stand and then commanded to lie down. The handler walks towards the dog and having turned twice the handler recalls the dog from the box and they walk towards the starting point and stop.

The dog must follow the commands, e.g., if a stand command is given in the circle and if a stand command is given in the square, they must be obeyed, and if the down command in the square is given directly, the down should be immediate. Vice versa, the dog should not stop or go down without the specific commands. The grade is dropped if the dog acts on its own.

When the handler has commanded the dog to the circle and commanded it to stand, depending on the dog's location, the handler can choose to send the dog to the box or correct the dog's location by redirecting if the dog is not entirely inside the circle.

If the dog stands on the borderline, the handler may send the dog to the box, but the grade will be dropped. The handler can also decide to redirect the dog into the circle, if it stands on the borderline. This is the handler's choice.

If the dog is fully outside the circle, it must be redirected into the circle, or else the exercise is failed.

After the dog has stood approximately 3–4 seconds (inside the circle or on the borderline), the handler directs, on instruction of the steward, the dog to the 3 m x 3 m square.

If the handler intends to redirect the dog into the circle, she/he must start the redirecting, before the steward's instruction to command the dog to the square i.e., before approximately 3–4 secs has expired.

The dog should move in a straight line to the circle and to the square, and should enter the square from the front.

When the dog reaches the square, the handler commands the dog either to stand and then to lie down or directly to lie down. If the dog is commanded to stand, the stand position should be clear and stable and last for approximately 3 sec. before the down command is given. The handler gives the stand and/or down commands independently.

If the dog stops on its way to the square, in the vicinity of the square or on the borderline, on command or independently, the dog needs to be redirected into the square. A new stand command must be given in the square before the down command, or the direct down command must be given.

When told, the handler walks towards the dog. When the handler has reached the distance of approximately 2 m from the dog (the handler is not directed into the square, however), the handler is told to turn (90°), 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. Having reached the starting point, the handler is told to stop.

To avoid a reduction for extra commands the handler should not use more than six commands during this exercise, one of the six commands being a stand command in the square. Alternatively the handler can command the dog directly to lie down and thus use only five commands.

Hand signals may be combined with vocal commands when the dog is at a distance. The recall from the box may be accompanied by a short turning of the handler's head.

All other commands except the stand, down and re-directing commands need the permission of the steward.

Directions for judging:

The dog's willingness to follow directions and commands, the dog's tempo and straight routes should be emphasised.

Showing the dog directions (e.g. the circle or square), or touching the dog at the starting point, (even before the start of the exercise), will lead to failing the exercise. One "handtouch" is allowed before the start, but this means that the dog touches the handler and not vice versa, and it may not give any impression of showing places or directions. See general guidelines § 20 & 53.

If the handler moves (takes steps in any direction) while giving the commands, the exercise is failed (=0). If there is excess action (body language) by the handler, no more than 8 should be given.

Hand signals are only allowed if the dog is directed/redirected. A hand signal given when the dog is beside the handler, deducts the grade (-2).

If the dog moves slowly or very slowly, only about 6–7 should be given.

If the dog acts on his own, the grade is lowered. If the dog stops on its way to the box, or if the dog stops or lies down without a command in the box, the grade should be dropped by 3.

The grade is dropped if the handler uses more than six commands (including the stand command)/ more than five commands (direct down). The drop of the grade for extra directing /redirecting commands, depends on their strength/intensity and the dog's willingness to obey the commands and thus the deduction can be 1 – 2 /command.

The circle

Depending on the location of the dog after the stop command (outside/on the border/inside), the handler can either redirect the dog into the circle or send it to the square.

If the dog is completely outside the circle, redirecting the dog into the circle is obligatory.

If the dog stands on the borderline, redirecting is optional.

- If the dog is completely inside the circle, the grade is not dropped due to location.
- If the dog stands on the borderline of the circle, the grade is dropped by $\frac{1}{2}$ –3, depending on the dog's location.
- Three legs inside, max 9.
- Three legs outside (only one leg inside), max 7. The handler can redirect the dog, and if the dog obeys and is completely inside the circle, only 2 grades are dropped: one for the redirecting and one for the stop command.
- If the dog is completely outside, the handler must redirect the dog into the circle. If the redirecting is successful with one directing command and a stand command, the grade is dropped by 2.
If a second redirecting command and stop command must be given, the grade is dropped by another 2 grades.
- A dog that takes a sitting or down position inside the circle (on command), should not be awarded more than 8. If it has acted on its own, no more than 7 should be awarded.
- If the dog sits or goes down outside the circle, the exercise is failed.
- If the dog sits or goes down on the borderline, it must be redirected to stand inside the circle, no more than 6 can be awarded.

The square

If the dog enters the square from the side or from the back, the grade is dropped by ($\frac{1}{2} - 1$).

If the dog sits or lies down outside the square, it may not be redirected and the exercise is failed (=0). To get a passing grade, the dog must be entirely inside the square. The tail, however, does not have to be inside the border.

If the dog is stopped on command and it stops in the vicinity of the square or at the borderline and the dog needs to be redirected into the square, a new stand command must be given in the square before the down command, provided the exercises was intended to include a stand before the down command. The drop is 2 grades if the dog's responses are quick and positions clear.

If a dog that is commanded directly down needs to be stopped (e.g., outside the square) for redirection into the square, the drop is likewise 2 grades for the extra stand and redirecting command that has been given.

If the dog takes the wrong position (on command) in the square, the grade is lowered by 2, and if the standing position is not clear and stable or if it is too short the grade is deducted by 1–2.

If the dog takes a wrong position acting on its own, the grade is deducted by 3.

The exercise is failed (=0), if the dog rises up to sit or stand before the handler's second turn. If the dog rises up (to sit or stand) after the handler's second turn before it is recalled, no more than 7 can be awarded. If the dog moves/creeps in the square without rising, 2–3 grades are deducted. If it moves and crosses the border before the steward's command to recall, the exercise is failed (=0). If, however, the dog anticipates the recall command and starts off just slightly before handler's command e.g., on the steward's command to recall the dog, the grade is dropped by 2–3.

A second recall, a second stand (both in the circle and in the square), or a second down command, drops the grade by 2 /command. The exercise is failed (=0), if even one of these commands has been given a third time.

EXERCISE 3.7 Directed retrieve

[Coeff. 3]

Command: “Forward” – “Stand” – “Right/left/middle” – “Retrieve” – “Release”
Simultaneous hand signals are allowed in addition to voice commands on the directing commands.

Both hands may be used, by putting them together in front and pointing towards the dumbbell in the middle.

Description: Three wooden dumbbells are placed in a row approximately 5 m apart from each other so that they are easily seen. Which dumbbell should be retrieved, is determined by a closed draw. The dumbbell to be retrieved can be the left dumbbell, middle one or the right one.

The starting point is approximately 20 m from the middle dumbbell. An imaginary line segment is formed parallel with the line of dumbbells approximately 10 m from the starting point, and 10 m from the row of dumbbells. The imaginary line segment is pointed out with 2 little markings not less than 10 metres from each other (with short visible pieces of tape (10–20 cm), chalk, small cones or half spheres, pieces of pipe or tubes (10–20 cm), etc.). The markings should be visible for the judge and handler but not so that they disturb the dog / are conspicuous to the dog.

The steward places the three dumbbells. They are always placed in the same order (from left to right or right to left) and in the same position (horizontal or vertical) for all competitors of the competition/class 3. The dumbbells should be placed at least 3 m from the borders of the ring. See figure below.

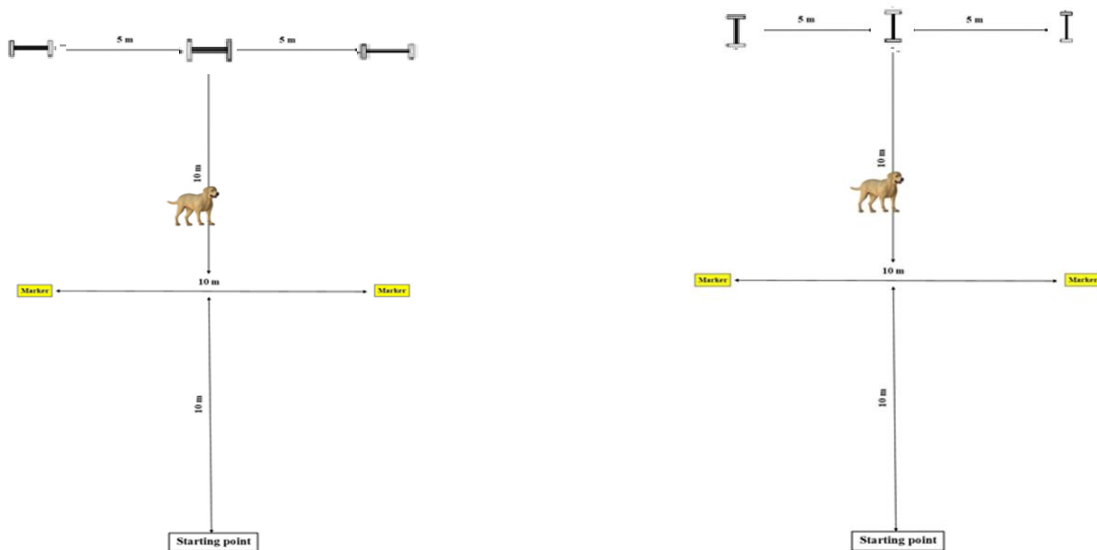


Figure Exercise 3.7 The dumbbells may be placed vertically or horizontally.

Performance: The handler and dog stand at the starting point facing the middle dumbbell at the distance of 20 metres. The start of the exercise is announced. The steward walks to place the dumbbells as described, for all competitors from the same direction. The handler sends the dog towards the middle dumbbell and after it has passed the 10-metre line segment, commands it to stand. The handler can give the stand command at any point after the dog has passed the 10-metre line. If the dog stops before the 10-metre line segment, it must be redirected to pass the line segment. This drops the grade.

After ~ 3 seconds the handler is informed which dumbbell (the right, the left or the middle dumbbell) should be retrieved. The dog should retrieve and deliver the dumbbell correctly. The directing command (right/left/middle) and the retrieve command should follow each other without a break in between, thus a late retrieve command will be interpreted as a second command.

Directions for judging:

Emphasis should be on the dog's willingness to retrieve, to follow the directive commands and stop command, the dog's tempo and taking the shortest way to the correct dumbbell. Showing the dog directions or touching the dog at the starting point will lead to failing of the exercise (=0). (Hand touch, dog touching handler, is allowed, see general directions)

To obtain a passing grade for this exercise, the dog should stand between the imaginary line and the central dumbbell (needs to have passed the 10 m line), before it is sent to retrieve.

If the dog stops on its own, no more than 7 can be awarded. If the dog needs to be redirected to pass the line segment, no more than 7 can be awarded.

A dog that takes a wrong position or moves after the stop command or during the standing phase of the exercise, cannot get more than 8. If the dog moves more than approximately one body length from its standing position (after it has once stopped) before the directing command /retrieve command, the exercise is failed (=0). If the dog moves more than three body lengths after the handler's stop command, the grade should be dropped by 3–4.

The reduction for extra directing /redirecting commands depends on their strength and the dog's willingness to obey the commands. It can be 1–2 grades/command.

If the dog goes to the wrong dumbbell and is stopped and redirected to the correct one and the dog brings the correct one, no more than 7 can be awarded. If the dog is redirected from the wrong dumbbell without a stop, 2 grades should be dropped.

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

For dropping the dumbbell and for chewing or biting on the dumbbell, see the general guidelines for judging exercises.

EXERCISE 3.8 Send around cones / a barrel, stop, retrieve and jump **[Coeff. 4]**

Commands: "Around" – "Stand/Sit/down" – "right/left + retrieve" – "Jump" – "Release" – ("Heel")

A simultaneous hand signal may be used in addition for the stop command and directing command (left/right) to the dumbbell, and if redirecting commands are needed.

Description: Before the competition starts, the judge will inform which position (stand/sit/down) the dog should take on its way back to the handler. The position is the same for all competitors in the competition.

Two hurdles (one closed with planks and one open with a bar) are placed approximately 5 m from each other. The height of the hurdles should be adjusted approximately to the height of the dog's height at the withers but not higher than 60 cm. A group of cones (3–6) or a barrel (both approximately 40–50 cm high) are placed at the distance of approximately 15 m from the imaginary line segment connecting the hurdles.

The layout of the exercise is shown in the figure below and the layout of the cones is described in Part VII Appendix 4.

In championship competitions/international competitions and competitions of rank, cones are always used.

The dog may not see the placing of the cones/barrel and therefore the cones/barrel must be placed before the handler stands at the starting point.

Before the competition / class or the exercise, the handler (or steward or judge) should draw the direction (right/left) from which the dog should retrieve the dumbbell and jump the corresponding hurdle. Thus, this determines whether it will be the open hurdle or the closed one. The draw can also be done by computer before the competition /class. At this stage, the handler is not told which direction has been drawn, whereas when the dog has run around the cones / barrel and has stopped in the position (stand / sit/ down) the handler will be informed which dumbbell (right / left) the dog should retrieve and which corresponding jump (open /closed) to take. The steward says “right/left, open/closed command”.

The dumbbells should always be placed in the same order (from right to left or from left to right) in a competition, regardless of which dumbbell should be brought.

The starting point can be chosen by the handler from between 5–7 metres in front of the imaginary connecting line between the two hurdles. The dumbbells are placed 6 metres from the hurdles. See Figure.

There should be three different sizes of wooden dumbbells available, suitable for different breeds. The weight of the largest should be max 450 g. The size of the dumbbells should be in proportion to the size of the dog, but the handler is free to choose the size.

Figures for the recommended construction of all hurdles are at the end of these guidelines in Part VII, Appendix 1.1 & 1.2

Suggestions for patterns of the cones are in Part VII Appendix 4.

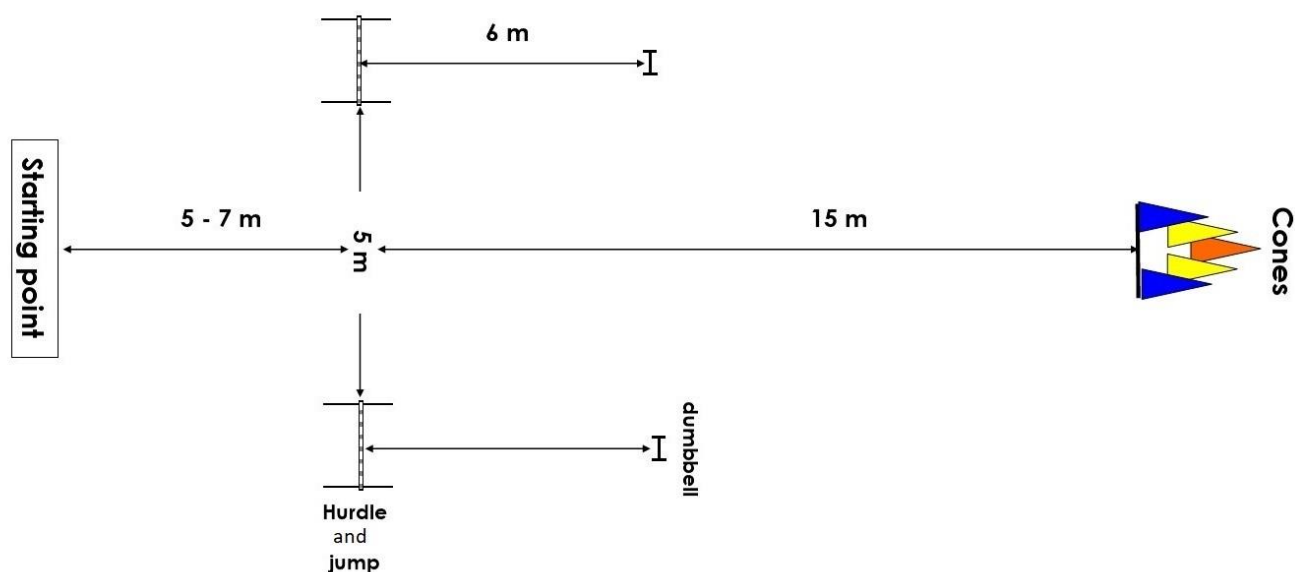


Figure: Exercise 3.8. The dumbbells can only be placed horizontally (like in the figure).

Performance: The handler stands with the dog in heel position at the starting point facing the cones/barrel. The steward announces the start of the exercise and walks to place the dumbbells approximately 6 metres behind the hurdles. On instruction, the handler sends the dog to run around the cones/barrel. The dog should leave a distinct distance to the cones and thus, the ideal is not to do a close (tight) turn around the cones/barrel. Depending on the breed, approximately half a metre for middle sized breeds and up till one metre for large breeds are suitable distances.

When the dog is on its way back and has clearly passed the cones/barrel by at least ~ 2 m but not passed the imaginary line connecting the dumbbells, the handler commands (independently) the dog to stop in the position that was determined by the judge. A voice command must be used but may be accompanied by a simultaneous hand signal. During the stop (appr. 3 sec.) the steward informs the handler which direction was drawn and instructs the handler to command the dog to retrieve the correct dumbbell and to jump the correct corresponding hurdle and return to heel position. The dog should start off only after the handler's command. The steward's instruction is "left/right or open/closed" and "command". Thus, the handler should wait for the steward to say "command" before sending/commanding the dog. The handler permitted to give a jump command after the dog has picked up the dumbbell.

Directions for judging:

Emphasis should be on the dog's willingness to follow commands and directions, the dog's tempo and taking a reasonably short way, but leaving a suitable distance from the cones/barrel. Symmetry and focusing on the middle line or handler when returning (before the stop), are also valued. The dog may run clockwise or counterclockwise around the cones/barrel.

Showing the dog directions or touching the dog at the starting point will lead to failing of the exercise. (See general guidelines § 20 & 53.)

The dog must show a good and consistent speed, at least a brisk trot. Slow/reluctant working will lower the grade (1–5). The breed/structure of the dog must be taken account of when judging the speed and the distance from the cones/barrel as well as when judging the stop.

If the dog returns or stops before having reached the cones/barrel, it must be redirected to circle round the cones/barrel. The drop is 3, provided the dog runs around the cones/the barrel on one redirecting command. Thus 7 can be awarded if the exercise is perfect in all other aspects.

The exercise is failed (=0) if the dog does not circle around the cones/barrel.

Having passed the cones, if the dog stops independently (without a command, clearly too early), it should be recalled and stopped again. No more than 7 can be awarded.

In assessing the stop, the willingness to obey the stop command is valued. It is up to the handler to decide when to give the stop command. It may not, however, be before the dog has passed the cones by at least 2 metres.

If the handler stops the dog too early, but so that it has clearly passed the cone (at least one metre) the grade is lowered by 2.

A dog that takes a wrong position cannot get more than 8.

If the dog anticipates the commands, 2–3 grades should be lowered. If it acts independently the grade is deducted by 3.

If the dog needs more than 3X its body length to stop no more than 7 can be awarded. If the dog does not stop, the exercise is failed.

The dog must remain in its position (stand/sit/down) until the handler's recall command to continue. If the dog starts off too early after the stop, the grade should be lowered by 2–3. This can even fail the exercise, if the start off is very early, for example before the steward's command.

If the dog clearly goes to the wrong dumbbell/hurdle and is stopped and redirected successfully to the correct one, 3 grades should be dropped. If the dog is redirected successfully from the wrong direction (or hurdle) without a stop, 1–2 grades should be deducted.

The reduction of the grade for extra directing (redirecting) commands depends on their strength and the dog's willingness to obey the commands. It can be 1–2 /command. The deduction for other extra commands should be congruent with the general directions.

If the dog touches or collides with a cone /cones or the barrel, 1–3 grades are deducted, depending on forcefulness/ intensity of the collision. If the dog knocks over a cone / cones, 2–3 grades are deducted. If the dog runs between the set of cones no more than 7 should be awarded. Also, if the dog's route is very close to the cones/barrel, the grade should be dropped.

If the dog touches the hurdle when jumping, the grade should be lowered by 2.

If the dog touches or drops the bar on the open hurdle, the grade should be lowered by 2 as well, no more.

Failing the exercise (=0):

- If the dog jumps a hurdle on the way to the cones/barrel, the exercise is failed.
- If the dog needs a second redirecting command (third command) for circling round the cones/barrel, i.e., a third "around" command, the exercise is failed.
- If the handler gives the stop command (stand–sit–down) too early, i.e., when the dog is still beside the cones/barrel, the exercise is failed.
- If the dog does not stop on command, the exercise is failed.
- If the dog passes the connecting lines of the dumbbells without having picked up the correct dumbbell, the exercise is failed.
- If the dog picks up the wrong dumbbell, the exercise is failed.
- If the dog does not jump the hurdle or jumps the wrong hurdle, the exercise is failed.
- If the dog supports itself on the hurdle, the exercise is failed.
- If the hurdle falls over, the exercise is failed.
- If the handler shows the dog directions or touches the dog at the starting point, the exercise is failed (0). See general guidelines §20 & 53.

For dropping the dumbbell and for chewing or biting on the dumbbell see the general guidelines for judging exercises.

EXERCISE 3.9 Scent discrimination and retrieve

[Coeff. 3]

Commands: ("Stay/heel"), "Seek", "Release" ("Heel")

Performance: The handler stands at the starting point with the dog in heel position and the steward announces the start of the exercise and gives the handler a wooden retrieve object (10 cm x 2 cm x 2 cm), which has been marked beforehand with some identification. A pencil or ballpoint pen should be used, not e.g. a felt-tip pen, marker pen, magic marker, etc.). The handler may keep the marked object in her/his hands for approximately 5 seconds. The dog is not allowed to touch or scent the object at this stage. The steward tells the handler to hand over the object and to turn around. The handler decides whether the dog does or does not see when the objects are positioned. Heel or stay commands are allowed.

The steward walks to place the handler's object, without touching it, together with 5–7 similar/identical wooden objects on the ground / the floor at a distance of about 10 metres from the handler. The steward places the other five to seven (5–7) objects by hand, and thus touches them. The objects should be placed in the same pattern for all competitors in the competition and approximately 25 cm apart. The position of the handler's object may vary from one competitor to another. There are no restrictions to placing the handler's object within the chosen pattern. See suggestions for patterns in Part VII Appendix 2.

The handler is then told to turn around and to command the dog to retrieve the marked object. The dog should find the handler's object, retrieve it, and deliver it to the handler in accordance with the general directions.

The dog should be allowed to work approximately half a minute, if the working is active and goal driven. Each competitor should have new objects.

Directions for judging:

Emphasis should be on the dog's willingness to work, on effectivity, and tempo. The exercise is failed (=0), if the dog is allowed to scent or touch the object at the beginning of the exercise before it is handed back to the steward, and also if commands are given when the dog is at the objects, or if the dog picks up the wrong object.

The exercise is not failed if the dog sniffs at the objects or very slightly touches the objects when looking for the correct one.

The grade is dropped if the dog shoves /moves / pokes the object(s) or if it needs to make sure of the correct object several times. The drop is ½ -1 for a move or poke. One short recheck, however, does not necessarily drop the grade, provided that the work is systematic and efficient.

For dropping the object and for chewing or biting on the object see the general guidelines for judging exercises.

EXERCISE 3.10 Distance control

[Coeff. 4]

Commands:

“Down” – “Stay” – “Sit” – “Stand” – “Down”

Simultaneous hand signals are allowed in addition to voice commands on position changes. One hand or both hands may be used.

Performance:

The dog should change positions 6 times (sit / stand / down) according to the handler's commands and remain in its original place.

The starting point is between two markers that are approximately 1 m apart. An imaginary line connecting the two markers forms a boundary. The handler commands, when instructed, his/her dog to lie down at the starting point in front of the imaginary line (boundary) so that it forms a tangent.

The handler leaves the dog and moves on to an assigned place approx. 15 m from the dog and turns around to face the dog. Each position should be done twice and the last command for changing position should be down. The order of taking the positions can vary but should be the same for all competitors.

The steward shows the handler in which order the dog should change positions, by written signs or drawings, or by an electric display board. The steward should stand approximately 3–5 metres from the dog and so that he/she is not able to see the dog when displaying the instructions for position changes. The steward should change the sign about every 3 seconds.

The handler must use voice commands. When the handler is distant from the dog, he/she may accompany the voice commands with hand signals, but they must be short and used simultaneously with the voice commands. After the last “down” command, the handler returns to the dog and commands (on the steward's instruction) it to sit.

Directions for judging:

Emphasis should be on the speed at which the positions are changed, the clearness of the positions and how well the positions are held, and how much the dog moves.

If the dog moves more than its body length in total from the starting point (in any direction) the exercise is failed (=0). If the dog moves one body length, it cannot score more than 5. In assessing the distance of movement, all moved distances are added together (back and forth, sideways, etc.).

If the dog misses one position of the six, no more than 7 should be awarded. If the dog misses two positions, the exercise is failed (=0). Also, if the dog jumps over one position and takes the next position instead, the exercise is failed (=0).

The dog has to change positions at least 5 times on command to get a passing grade.

No more than 8 can be awarded, if the dog once needs two commands on a position change. Disobeying a second command on a position leads to missing that position. I.e. the first time a second command is given on a position, the grade drops by 2 and the next time(s) a position needs a second command the drop is 1 for the extra command.

A third command may be given on a position, if it can be done within the time limit, so that the next position change can be carried out. A position done after a third command is, however, a missed position.

Extensive use of voice, exaggerated or long-lasting hand signals and other forms of body language drop the grade (see general rules).

If the dog sits up before the handler returns, no more than 8 should be given.

It is possible to get a passing grade for this exercise even if 3 – 4 of the positions have been achieved only after an extra command, provided that the extra commands are obeyed immediately, and lead to good, clear positions, and the exercise is otherwise performed well according to description.

VII

APPENDIX

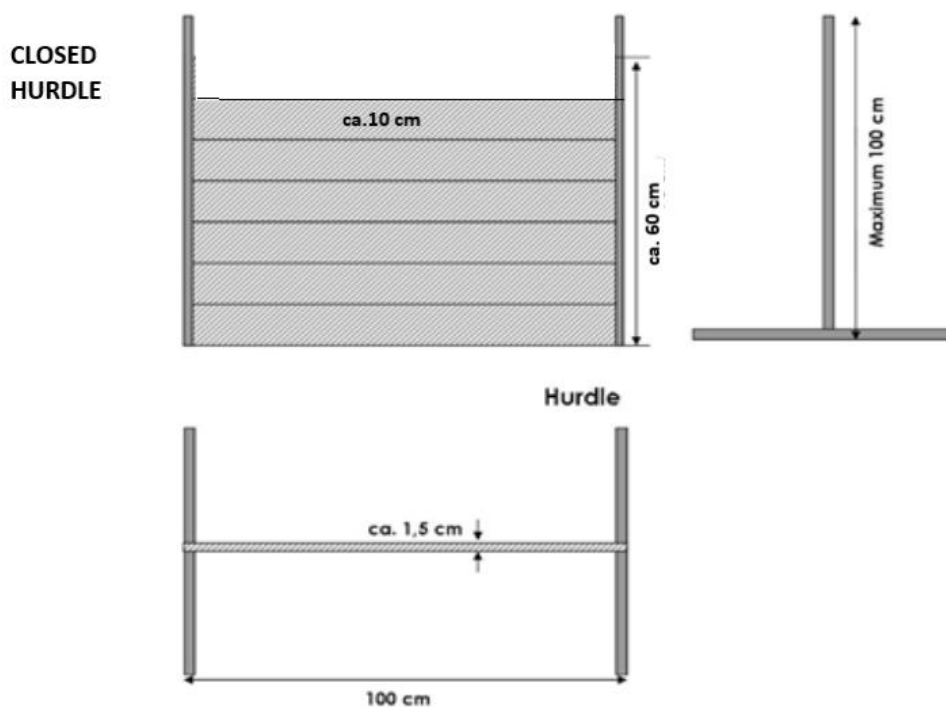
APPENDIX 1.1

Hurdle

Figure of the hurdles of Exercise 8 in Class 1, Exercise 9 in Class 2 and Exercise 8 in Class 3.

The maximum height for Classes 1 & 2 is 50 cm and for Class 3 the maximum height is 60 cm.

The sidebars should be approximately 1 m high. The feet of the hurdle should be such that the hurdle is stable. A recommended length of the feet would be some 80–100 cm, depending on the construction.



APPENDIX 1.2

Jump

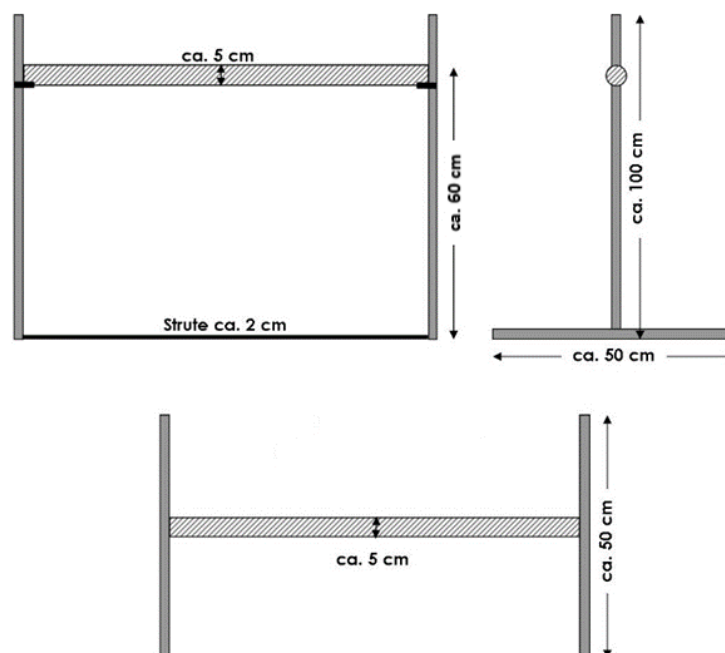
Figure of the open hurdles of

- Exercise 9 in Class 2 and
- Exercise 8 in Class 3.

The maximum height for Class 2 is 50 cm and for Class 3 the maximum height is 60 cm.

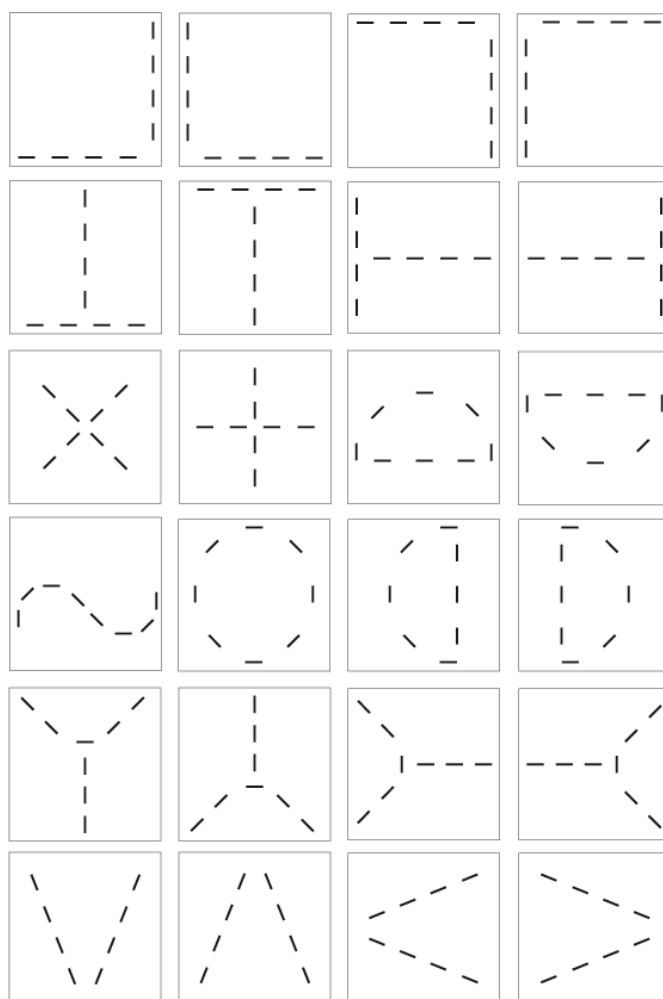
The bar lies freely, so that it can drop down to either side. There can be a connecting thin bar at the bottom, not more than 2 cm high from the ground. It is recommended that the supports of the bar are concave, so that the wind does not drop the bar easily. There should not be any extra supports for the bar, only the ones on which the bar lies. The length of the feet should be at least 0,5 metre.

OPEN JUMP



APPENDIX 2

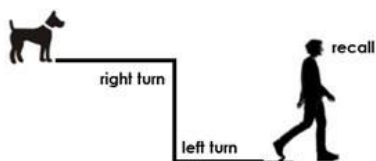
Some suggestions for displaying the objects in scent discrimination in Class 3.



APPENDIX 3

Schemas for positions under march and guidelines concerning stewards' commands.

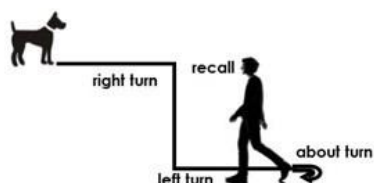
Ex 3.4



Stewards command:

Exercise positions under march starts:

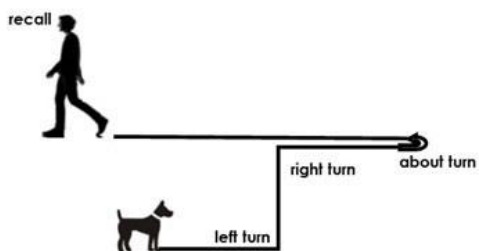
normal pace forward, command, right turn, left turn, call your dog.



Stewards command:

Exercise positions under march starts:

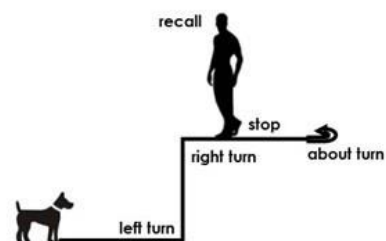
normal pace forward, command, right turn, left turn, about turn, call your dog.



Stewards command:

Exercise positions under march starts:

normal pace forward, command, left turn, right turn, about turn, call your dog.



Stewards command:

Exercise positions under march starts:

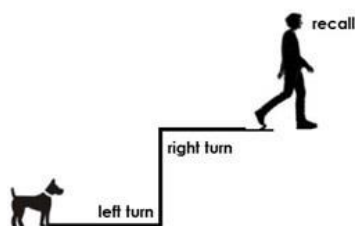
normal pace forward, command, left turn, right turn, about turn, stop, call your dog.



Stewards command:

Exercise positions under march starts:

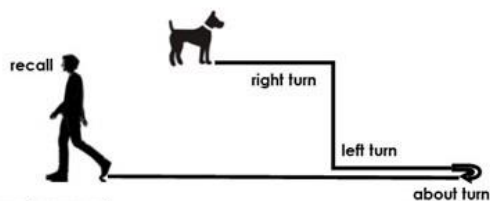
normal pace forward, command, left turn, right turn, stop, call your dog.



Stewards command:

Exercise positions under march starts:

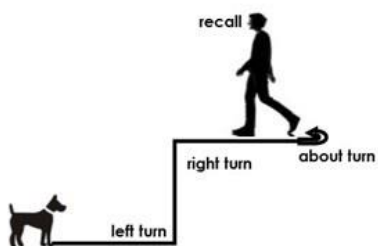
normal pace forward, command, left turn, right turn, call your dog.



Stewards command:

Exercise positions under march starts:

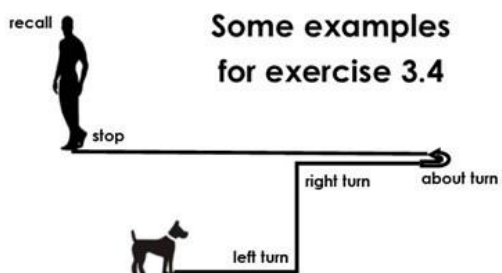
normal pace forward, command, right turn, left turn, about turn, call your dog.



Stewards command:

Exercise positions under march starts:

normal pace forward, command, left turn, right turn, about turn, call your dog.



Stewards command:

Exercise positions under march starts:

normal pace forward, command, left turn, right turn, about turn, stop, call your dog.

Some examples
for exercise 3.4

APPENDIX 4

Patterns for the group of cones in all exercises “Go round a group of cones”.

These are suggestions for ex 1.8, ex 2.9 and ex 3.8. It is important that the area demand is fulfilled i.e. both width and depth should be approximately 70 – 80 cm.

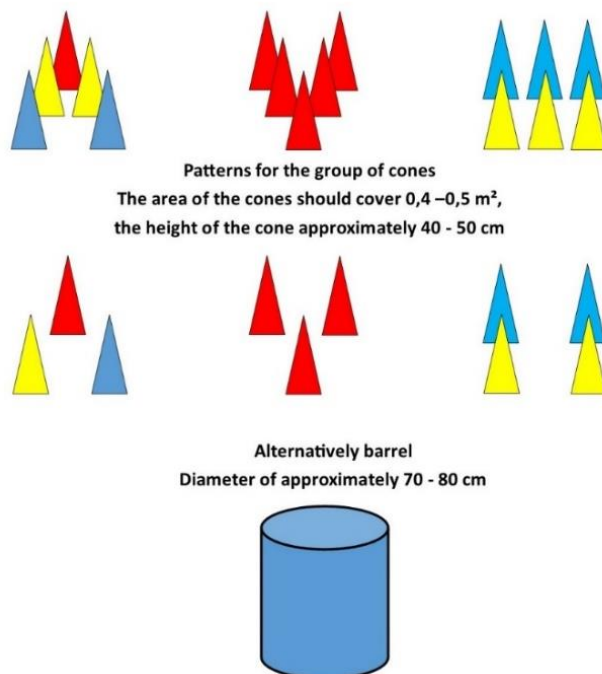
In all championship competitions a group of cones must be used. A barrel may be used in ordinary trials.

The width and depth of the group of cones should be approximately 70 – 80 cm. The height should be 40–50 cm.

With the assumption that the base of a cone is some 25 cm X 25 cm, we get 75 cm when placing three cones together side by side /after each other. This leaves a possibility to have a space of some 2–3 cm between the cones.

Placing two cones (four cones making a square) the space between the cones can be some 20 cm.

It is recommended that in class 1, the cones should be close together and thus use more cones, so there is less temptation to run between the cones.



APPENDIX 5

Details for composing the square.

Building the square and placing of the borderlines and cones of the square for exercises 1.5 & 2.5 & 3.6.

