Revisions to the
Obedience Regulations
Effective September 4, 2019 and
Required by January 1, 2020

This insert is issued as a supplement to the
Obedience Regulations amended to
January 1, 2019 and approved by the
AKC Board of Directors
August 13, 2019

NOTE: These changes are related to judging assignments and scheduling, and how clubs must combine classes for judging. The changes are effective September 4, 2019 and clubs must be compliant no later than January 1, 2020.

If Superintendents/Trial Secretaries have any software programming changes necessary to make to meet these requirements, all clubs have an extension to complete the changes by January 1, 2020. Any clubs ready to implement the changes on 09/04/2019 may do so. New Judges Books are available to download on the AKC website.

CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL REGULATIONS

Section 3. Premium Lists, Entries, Closing of Entries and Catalog Order. A premium list must be provided for sanctioned “A,” licensed or member trials. The premium shall be published and shall measure not less than 5½ x 8½ inches or more than 8½ x 11 inches.

To be acceptable, an entry must:

- Be submitted with the required entry fee
- Be on an official AKC entry form
- Be signed by the owner or their duly authorized agent

Include all of the following information:

- Name of show/trial-giving club
- Date of show/trial
- Breed
- Variety, if any
- Sex
- Name of class(es) entered
- Full AKC name of dog
- Name of owner(s)/co-owner(s)
- Address of owner

Include one of the following:

- AKC number
- PAL number
- AKC Canine Partners listing number
• Foreign registration number and country of registration for an unregistered imported dog
• Identification number issued by AKC

Include the following, if know:
• Date of birth
• Place of birth
• Name of breeder(s)
• Name of sire
• Name of dam
• Jump height

A club will arrange entries according to jump height order in all classes in which jumps are used. It will be stated in the premium list what jump height will begin the class and if the order will be ascending or descending. Handlers with multiple entries in the same class and with the same jump height should be accommodated. The catalog must be prepared in the following class order, regardless of the order in which the classes are listed in the judging program.

• Regular classes
• Preferred classes
• Optional classes
• Non-Regular classes

For all other catalog requirements, refer to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows.

Note: A dog listed with the AKC Canine Partners should mark their breed as an “All American Dog.”

Every premium list shall specify the date and time at which entries for a trial shall close. The premium list shall also specify the name and address of the Superintendent or Trial Secretary who is to receive the entries. For all trials the specified closing date and time must be no later than as outlined in the following schedule:

For a trial which opens on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, entries accepted not later than 11:59PM on the third Wednesday prior to the trial.
For a trial which opens on Tuesday, entries accepted not later than 11:59PM on the third Thursday prior to the trial.
For a trial which opens on Wednesday, entries accepted not later than 11:59PM on the third Friday prior to the trial.
For a trial which opens on Thursday, entries accepted not later than 11:59PM on the third Wednesday prior to the trial.

Clubs in a cluster of no more than five consecutive days have the option of closing no later than 11:59PM on the third Wednesday prior to the last trial in the cluster.
Whenever the closing day noted above falls on a postal holiday, entries received in any form up to 24 hours from the published closing date and time may be accepted.

**Entry Fees/Special Inducements.** A host club shall not accept an entry fee other than that published in its premium list or discriminate between exhibitors by offering certain owners or handlers special inducements such as rebates, prizes or other concessions unless allowed by another section of these regulations, except a club, at its discretion, may allow for a reduced entry fee for dogs handled by juniors. A junior must have an AKC Junior Handler number and is defined as someone less than 18 years of age on the first day of the event. An event is defined by a unique event number.

**Section 26. Judging Assignments, Scheduling and Judging Program.** In determining daily judging assignments, it is strongly recommended that clubs group classes with similar equipment and ring set-up requirements together to facilitate a more efficient trial.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes Requiring Similar Equipment &amp; Set-Ups:</th>
<th>Novice</th>
<th>Open</th>
<th>Utility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Novice A &amp; B</td>
<td>Open A &amp; B</td>
<td>Preferred Open</td>
<td>Utility A &amp; B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred Novice</td>
<td>Preferred Open</td>
<td>Graduate Novice</td>
<td>Preferred Utility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginner Novice</td>
<td>Graduate Novice</td>
<td>Versatility</td>
<td>Graduate Open</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Versatility</td>
<td></td>
<td>Versatility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The order in which classes are scheduled in each ring should also be considered; having classes with similar ring set-ups follow one another.

After entries have closed, any club holding a licensed or member obedience trial must prepare a judging program. The judging program will be based on the judging of no more that the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10 dogs per hour</th>
<th>9 dogs per hour</th>
<th>8 dogs per hour</th>
<th>7 dogs per hour</th>
<th>6 dogs per hour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginner Novice</td>
<td>Preferred Novice</td>
<td>Graduate Novice</td>
<td>Graduate Open</td>
<td>Versatility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novice</td>
<td>Preferred Open</td>
<td>Preferred Open</td>
<td>Preferred Utility</td>
<td>Utility</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open</td>
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<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utility</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

No judge will be assigned to judge for more than eight hours in one day. This limit includes rally and/or any breed judging assignments. Judges may take 45 minutes to one hour for rest or meals at their discretion.

When the Preferred Open and Preferred Utility classes are offered, the Preferred class entries will be judged in jump height order with the same Regular “B” class entries as stated in the premium list. The Preferred class entries will be designated with the letter P in the
judging program, catalog, judge’s books, and on the exhibitor armband. The awards as described in these regulations, Chapter 1, Sections 19 and 21, will be offered. The awards ceremony for each class must be conducted separately. Dogs may be entered in both the Regular and Preferred classes at the same trial.

The judging program must list the start time for each class scheduled to start before 12:00 noon unless otherwise stated in these regulations. In the case of a licensed or member specialty trial open only to the specialty breed, or a group trial, the start time for only the first obedience class needs to be given.

Classes scheduled to start at, or after 12:00 noon, will be listed to start “after noon” and must be judged in the order listed in the judging program. If a judge is scheduled to begin a class in an assigned ring that is not available, the class may be moved to any available ring at the trial site that meets the same requirements as the original ring. When an assigned ring is changed after the judging program is published, a notice must be posted at the original ring, informing exhibitors of the change in ring location. If the published judge is available prior to the listed start time and all exhibitors have checked-in and agree, the judge may start a class earlier than the class time listed in the judging program.

For classes that allow a walkthrough (Beginner Novice, Novice A and Preferred Novice) the listed start time is the time of the walkthrough and judging of the class will follow.

When the same judge is judging Novice A and Preferred Novice, and there are less than 20 combined dogs entered, the same start time will be listed for both classes, and the walkthrough will be combined. When the same judge is judging Beginner Novice A and B, and there are less than 20 combined dogs entered, the same start time will be listed for both classes, and the walkthrough will be combined. The awards ceremony for each class and division must be conducted separately.

If ten or more dogs are entered in Beginner Novice A and/or B, or Novice A and/or Preferred Novice, 10 minutes will be allocated in the schedule for the walkthrough. When there are less than ten dogs entered in those classes, 5 minutes will be allocated in the schedule for the walkthrough.

All trials starting at or after 12:00 noon will list the start time for only the first obedience class in each ring. When there are two trials scheduled for the same day/same site, a start time must be given for each trial. At no time may a second trial on the same day/same site, begin prior to the start time published in the judging program.

Any non-regular class must be judged after the regular, preferred, or optional titling classes if the classes are scheduled to be judged in the same ring.
Contact information, e.g. cell telephone number for at least one committee member that will be present at the trial on the day of the event must be listed in the judging program.

A copy of the judging program will be sent to the owner of each entered dog and to each judge; printed correspondence may be utilized at the exhibitor’s request.

A copy of the judging program will be published in the catalog.

**Section 28. Additional Judges, Reassignment, Split Classes.** After the entries have closed, if any judge exceeds the limit established in Chapter 1, Section 26 of these regulations the club will immediately secure the approval of the AKC for an additional judge or for reassignment of its advertised judges so that no judge will be required to exceed the limit.

If a judge was advertised to judge more than one class and receives an excessive entry, at least one of the classes shall be assigned to another judge.

Reassignment shall first go to any non-regular classes, then to either the class with the lesser number of entries or those with the lesser scheduled time. This will bring the advertised judge’s schedule as close as possible to the maximum limit.

If a judge with an excessive entry was advertised to judge only one class, the superintendent, show or trial secretary will divide the entry as evenly as possible between the two judges by drawing lots.

After the entries have closed, for the purpose of balancing the judging schedule among the approved panel of judges, the club may elect to change the class assignments to facilitate the smooth running of the trial. Such adjustments may be done for any reason including overloads, low entries, etc. When such judging class changes are proposed, the club must first obtain approval in writing from each judge affected, and then final approval from the American Kennel Club prior to publishing the judging program. The club should make every effort to affect as few entries as possible while keeping in mind the most efficient running of the trial. Clubs may remove judge(s) from the judging panel if entries are low, and both the club and the judge(s) agree to this action in writing.

A notification of any change of judge must be sent to the owner of each entry affected. The judging schedule must clearly state which classes have been changed, and that exhibitors are entitled to a full refund for entries affected by the change. The refund request must be in writing and submitted to the Trial Secretary anytime up until 30 minutes prior to the start of the first scheduled obedience class at the trial.

The owner will be permitted to withdraw such entry no later than one half hour prior to the scheduled start of any regular obedience competition at the trial, and the entry fee will then be refunded.
Should an Event Committee be informed at any time within 72 hours before the opening of its trial, that an advertised judge cannot fulfill their assignment; the club will find a qualified substitute judge or any person in good standing with the American Kennel Club. Only within 72 hours of an event may a club assign a judge with an event conflict to take that assignment. The Event Committee shall obtain approval of the change from The American Kennel Club if time allows.

No notice need be sent to those exhibitors who have entered dogs under the advertised judge. The Event Committee will be responsible for having a notice posted in a prominent place within the trial precincts as soon after the trial opens as is practical informing exhibitors of the change in judge(s). An exhibitor who has entered a dog under an advertised judge who is being replaced may withdraw such entry and will have the entry fee refunded provided notice of such withdrawal is given to the superintendent, show or trial secretary prior to the start of judging of the class.

CHAPTER 2 – REGULATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE AND JUDGING, JUDGING STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

Section 11. Notification and Announcement of Scores.
Immediately following the last individual exercise in Novice, the judge will inform the handler if the team may return for the group exercise. After the group exercise the judge will inform the handlers of a qualifying performance. In Beginner Novice, Preferred Novice, Graduate Novice, Open, Preferred Open, Graduate Open, Utility, Preferred Utility and Versatility, the judge will inform the handler immediately following the last exercise of a qualifying performance. After all the scores are recorded for the class, the judge will call the qualifying handlers back into the ring for the awards ceremony. The awards ceremony for each class and division must be conducted separately. For the awards ceremony, dogs may be picked up and carried into the ring if the handler desires. Before awarding the placements, the judge will inform the spectators of the maximum number of points required for a perfect score. After scores of each placement have been announced the judge will tell the other qualifying handlers their scores.