

**IRISH KENNEL CLUB CLG.**

**RULES & REGULATIONS FOR  
OBEDIENCE TESTS**

**2026**

*(effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025)*

## LICENCE APPLICATIONS

Licence applications to be received by the Irish Kennel Club CLG., at least sixty (60) days before the proposed date of the competition for all judges.

## SCHEDULE

The Society must issue a Schedule which shall form the basis of a contract between the Society and those entering dogs. The Society may make regulations subject to the approval of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., but no such regulations shall conflict with any Rule or Regulation of the Irish Kennel Club CLG. In the case of any conflict, the Rules and Regulation of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., shall prevail. No modifications may be made to the Schedule before the date of the show, except by permission of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., and such modifications, if possible, must be advertised.

Two copies of the schedule must be lodged with the Irish Kennel Club CLG.

The schedule must contain:-

- (a) The name of the Society.
- (b) The venue.
- (c) The date of the show.
- (d) The names of guarantors.
- (e) The name and address of veterinary surgeon.
- (f) The secretary's name and address.
- (g) The closing date for entries.
- (h) The time of opening of the show and proposed running order of classes.
- (i) Name(s) of judge(s) with the name of each class.
- (j) The amount of entry fee and any prize money.
- (k) Definition of all classes scheduled.
- (l) A statement that the show is held under Irish Kennel Club CLG., Rules and Regulations.
- (m) A statement that the organisers reserve the right to refuse any entry.
- (n) A statement that dogs under 6 months of age are not eligible to enter.
- (o) A statement that dogs must be registered or transferred with the Irish Kennel Club CLG., save in the case of Greyhounds duly registered with the Irish Coursing Club.
- (p) A separate official entry form with the Irish Kennel Club CLG., approved declaration.
- (q) All offers of sponsorship or donations with the names of sponsors.
- (r) A statement that all wins prior to the day specified for the closing of entries shall be taken into account when entering any class.
- (s) A statement that it is the competitor's responsibility to be available for their class.
- (t) A statement that the mating of bitches within the precincts of the showground is forbidden.
- (u) A statement that no bitch in season is allowed to compete.
- (v) A statement that, should a Judge be unable to fulfil the appointment to judge, the Committee reserve the right to appoint another Judge.
- (w) A statement that, should circumstances so dictate, the Society, in consultation with the Judges, may alter arrangement as necessary. Such changes and the circumstances surrounding them must be reported to the Irish Kennel Club CLG.
- (x) A statement that each exhibitor is responsible for keeping their dog under proper control at all times.
- (y) A statement that those taking part in an Irish Kennel Club CLG., licenced/approved event, are expected to maintain and abide by the highest standards in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., including the Sportsmen Code.
- (z) A statement that, dogs that have a docked tail or cropped ears cannot compete in any Irish Kennel Club CLG., licenced discipline/event.  
Exceptions to be made for dogs who have been docked due to a medical/veterinary reason. This must be backed up with a veterinary certificate submitted to the Irish Kennel Club CLG., office for the records.

## REGISTRATIONS

Every dog competing at any Obedience Test must be registered with the Irish Kennel Club CLG. or hold a 'Licence To Compete' issued by the Irish Kennel Club CLG.

## SPAYED BITCHES & CASTRATED DOGS

Both spayed bitches and castrated dogs are permitted to compete in Obedience Classes, provided they are registered pedigree dogs or licensed non-pedigree dogs.

## **DOCKED / CROPPED DOGS**

Dogs that have a docked tail or cropped ears cannot compete in any Irish Kennel Club CLG., licenced discipline/event.

Exceptions to be made for dogs who have been docked due to a medical/veterinary reason. This must be backed up with a veterinary certificate submitted to the Irish Kennel Club CLG., office for the records.

## **VISITING DOGS**

### Visiting dogs entering under Irish Kennel Club CLG., Regulations.

It would be appropriate for dogs to enter the class in which they are qualified to work under their own Kennel Club Regulations.

## **RULE CHANGES**

Additions / changes to the Obedience Regulations must be proposed by an affiliated Club to arrive at the Irish Kennel Club CLG., not later than 31<sup>st</sup> May. These proposals shall be reviewed by the Canine Activities and Sports Committee in June each year.

## **JUDGES**

Judges for Obedience Tests shall be appointed by the Society and must be approved by the Irish Kennel Club CLG. In the event of a Judge being unavailable, then the Society may appoint another Judge as substitute. In such cases the issue of Green Stars shall be subject to the approval of the substitute Judge by the Irish Kennel Club CLG.

In addition to judging and competitive experience consideration will be given to applicant's attendance at relevant courses, stewarding experience, actual number of bona fide dogs judged, personal qualities etc.

Appointment or promotion to an Obedience Judging Panel is at the discretion of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., and it reserves the right to refuse any appointment or promotion to a Judges Panel without explanation.

## **JUDGES LIST & REVISION OF SAME**

The Irish Kennel Club CLG., will issue to all Societies panels of Judges for Obedience Tests, Rally-O, Working Trials and Agility Tests. These panels shall be reviewed in June each year and the additions must be proposed by an Affiliated Club to arrive at the Irish Kennel Club CLG., not later than 31st May. Judges not so listed must submit a questionnaire with details of their qualifications and experience.

Any Judges considered for addition to any Panel must be recommended to the Irish Kennel Club CLG., by an Affiliated Club which must have established the intention of such nominees to judge when required.

## **JUDGES**

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

#### **Panel 1 - Eligible to judge Beginners and Novice Obedience**

Applicants for addition to Panel 1 must be recommended by an Affiliated Irish Kennel Club Club and have at least won out of Beginners Obedience at an Irish Kennel Club CLG or Royal Kennel Club London licenced show. This panel is for judges who have not judged Obedience Classes under the Rules and Regulations of the Irish Kennel Club CLG.

Stewarding experience at this level is required.

#### **Panel 2 - Eligible to judge Class A, Class B and Class C (Open only) Obedience**

To apply for promotion to Panel 2, the applicant must have judged at least five classes, to include two Beginners and two Novice Obedience Classes under the Rules & Regulations of the Irish Kennel Club CLG. or Royal Kennel Club London licenced show. To be promoted to judge Class A and Class B Obedience the applicant must also have at least two wins in Class A. All wins must be 10 points or under. To be promoted to judge Class C Obedience Class (at Open Shows) an Obedience Judge must have been placed at least twice in Class C Obedience (Open or Championship) at an Irish Kennel Club CLG or Kennel club London licenced show, losing 10 points or under.

Stewarding experience at this level is required.

Judges on Panel 2 may judge any number of appointments in the calendar year but not award Green Stars.

**Panel 3 – All Classes including Championship Class C Obedience**

To apply for promotion to Panel 3, the applicant must have judged at least eight Obedience Classes, to include three Class C Obedience (at Open Shows), as a Panel 2 Judge under the Rules & Regulations of the Irish Kennel Club CLG or Royal Kennel Club London licenced show. Additionally, they themselves must have competed at Class C Obedience level losing not more than 10 points on at least two occasions at an Irish Kennel Club CLG or Kennel Club London licenced show.

Stewarding experience at this level is required.

Judges on Panel 3 may judge any number of appointments in a calendar year but not award more than two Green Stars in that period.

**OVERSEAS JUDGES**

Judges from other countries may judge Obedience Classes provided they have judged at the same level in their own country and submit their qualifications for approval by the Irish Kennel Club CLG.

Once an overseas Judge is approved and has judged Class ‘C’ Obedience at an Irish Kennel Club CLG., Show, that Judge will be placed on the Overseas Obedience Judges List (Open and Green Star). Judges on the Overseas Judges List are not required to complete a Questionnaire for future appointments, unless changing from Open to Green Star status.

**NUMBERS TO BE JUDGED**

The maximum number of dogs to be judged by one Judge at any Obedience Show is not to exceed 50.

**ORDER OF JUDGING**

A Society, by publication in the schedule, may reserve the right to vary the order of judging when the entry is known.

**GREEN STARS**

A win of first prize in any Class C Obedience at Championship level which is open to all dogs shall count as a 1-point Green Star provided that the winner has not lost more than 10 points out of 300.

**OBEDIENCE WINS**

In the event of the leading dog losing more than 10 marks in any of the Obedience Classes such wins will not be recorded and will not count when entering further competitions.

**OBEDIENCE CHAMPION**

A dog which shall have won five (5) Green Star Points in Class ‘C’ Obedience Classes at Championship Level under at least three different judges shall be termed an Obedience Champion.

**CLASSES**

For Open Obedience and Championship Obedience Tests a Show Society must schedule all of the following classes: -

Beginners, Novice, Class A, Class B and Class C. The Pre-Beginners class is optional.

**STEWARDS**

The Show executive shall ensure that Caller Stewards are appointed for each class scheduled.

**SCOREBOARDS**

Master Ringside Score Sheets must be provided by the Show Executive for each class scheduled. These must be completed by the Judge or Steward after each competitor's round.

**REPORTING ROUTINE**

It is the responsibility of the competitor to report to the Ring Steward.

**RUNNING ORDER**

Running Orders, if any, in Obedience Classes shall be at the discretion of the Judge and/or Show Management, and if applicable, should be adhered to where possible. Any such running orders may not disenfranchise competitors who present outside of the running order, but before the class has closed. A class will be deemed closed if Scent or Stays have commenced. Scent and Stays must be held after the competitors ‘general round’ has been completed.

## TIME OF STAYS

Where a competitor is entered in more than one class and running orders clash the Show Manager shall ensure that the Judges concerned facilitate the competitor.

Any dog which is not presented for stay or scent exercises when called for testing will be considered to have withdrawn from the class.

## ADDITIONAL AWARDS

### (a) Obedience 'Excellent' Qualifications.

The certificate is the Obedience Excellent Qualification, which will be awarded to a dog gaining sufficient top four placings in standard classes at Open or Championship Shows. This will not replace the method of progression from each class and only results gained on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000 can be used for calculation towards this award.

The qualifications will be: - P-Beg. Ex., Beg. Ex., Nov. Ex., A Ex., B Ex., C Ex.

Points towards the qualification 'Excellent' in any particular Class will be awarded as a result of gaining places in that class. In order to gain an 'Excellent' qualification a dog must have at least one placing on or under 10 points for that class.

Qualifying Points will be awarded as follows: -

Place	Points
1 <sup>st</sup> (on or under 10 marks)	10
1 <sup>st</sup> (over 10 marks)	7
2 <sup>nd</sup>	4
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2
4 <sup>th</sup>	1
Green Star	5 additional pts.
Res. Green Star	3 additional pts.

The points required to achieve the qualifications are as follows: -

Class	Points Required
Pre-Beginners	10
Beginners	20
Novice	20
Class A	30
Class B	30
Class C	30

Eg.

It can be seen that a dog can achieve the 'Excellent' qualification in any particular class by gaining the requisite number of points. For example, a dog gaining 7 x 3<sup>rd</sup> places in Beginners (14 points) plus 1 x 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Beginners (4 points) plus 2 x 4th place in Beginners (2 points) will have a total of 20 points – all gained in Beginners class. This dog will still be eligible for Beginners until such time as it wins out in the conventional manner but will be able to be entered with the 'Beg. Ex.' Qualification after its name.

Once a dog has gained sufficient points, the registered owner may submit an application for the title to the Canine Activities and Sports Committee of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., setting out details of the Show Society, Show Date and classes where points were gained. Note. Only one such qualification may be used after the dog's name so that as a dog progresses, and qualifies for a higher title, the lower one may not be used.

### (b) Obedience Diploma

An Obedience Diploma will be issued on application by the registered owner at the time of qualification in respect of a dog that has obtained the following at Championship or Open Obedience Shows.

- 1) Two First Prizes in Novice Class.
- 2) Two First Prizes in Class A Obedience.
- 3) Two First Prizes in Class B Obedience.
- 4) One First Prize in Class C Obedience (Open or Championship).

The title "Ob. Dip." may be used after the name of the dog on show entries and in catalogues.

Once a dog has won the requisite classes the registered owner may submit an application for the title to the Canine Activities and Sports Committee of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., setting out details of the Show Society, Show Date and classes won.

## **IRISH KENNEL CLUB CLG., GENERAL RULES FOR OBEDIENCE TESTS**

- a. In all classes the dog should work in a happy and natural manner. Prime consideration should be given to judging the dog and handler as a team. The dog's name may be used simultaneously with command or signal without penalty. The dog may be encouraged and praised except where specifically stated.
- b. All competitors must show respect for the judge. Training rounds will only be allowed if prior permission has been given by the judge.
- c. In all tests the left side of a handler will be regarded as the "working side", unless the handler suffers from a physical disability and has the judge's permission to work the dog on the right-hand side.
- d. Instructions and commands to competitors may be made either by the Judge or the Steward by delegation.
- e. It is permissible for handlers to practise their dogs before going into the ring provided there is no punitive correction and no distraction caused to dogs working.
- f. The dog should be led into the ring for judging with a collar and lead attached (unless otherwise directed) and should be at the handler's side. A competitor may withdraw from competition, but the Judge must be advised of the decision to withdraw.
- g. 'Left About Turns' in Heelwork are only permissible in Class B and Class C at slow or normal pace at the Judge's discretion.
- h. Imperfections in heeling between tests will not be judged, but any physical disciplining by the handler in the ring, and/or any uncontrolled behaviour of the dog, such as snapping, unjustified barking, fouling the ring, or running out of the ring, even between tests, must be penalised by deducting points from the total score and the Judge may bar the dog from further competition in the class.
- i. Food, or any other article, may not be given or carried in the ring, with the exception of Pre-Beginners and Beginners where a non-squeaky/non-audible toy may be carried by the handler.
- j. In the event of a dog disturbing another competing dog during any exercise, then the competitor, at the discretion of the Judge, is entitled to a second chance.
- k. In any test where articles are used, none of the articles must be injurious to the dog and must be capable of being picked up by any dog entering in the class.
- l. A bitch in season shall not be allowed to compete at Obedience Tests.
- m. Dog may only wear a smooth collar when in the ring. It is permissible for a tracking device to be attached to the collar.
- n. Each handler must give the correct ring number to the judge and steward for the dog they are working as they enter the ring to work.
- o. Judging rings must be a minimum of 12.5 & 12.5 metres and where possible 16.5 X 16.5 metres. The boundary must be clearly defined.
- p. No person shall carry out punitive correction or harsh handling of a dog at any time while on the show ground.
- q. With the exception of scent tests, in any class the order in which tests are undertaken is at the discretion of the Judge. However, all the dogs in a class should complete the tests in the same order. Scent tests, however, must not be carried out during the main ring work but will take place as a separate test at the discretion of the Judge. The Judge may relax the running order.
- r. In all test's points must be graduated.
- s. No variations to any test within a class may be made. 'Run Offs' will be judged, one at a time, by normal scheduled tests until a winner is determined, and the judges shall have the final decision as to what exercise or exercises may be used.
- t. Timetable of judging - To assist Show Executives the following guide timetable is issued: -

Class C ... 8 dogs per hour	Class B ... 10 dogs per hour	Class A ... 12 dogs per hour
Novice Class ... 12 dogs per hour	Beginners Class ... 15 dogs per hour	Pre-Beg. ... 15 dogs per hour

This timetable does not allow for the time allotted to Scent and Stay exercises.
- u. No competitor may impugn the Judge's decision.
- v. To signal completion of test the handler will be given the command 'Test Finished'.

## **IRISH KENNEL CLUB CLG., RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR OBEDIENCE TESTS**

### **PRE -BEGINNERS OBEDIENCE CLASS**

Confined to dogs or handlers which have not been awarded four first prizes (on or under 10 marks) in any obedience test under Irish Kennel Club CLG., Rules or under any Kennel Club recognised by The Irish Kennel Club CLG. Handlers will not be penalised for encouragement or extra commands except in the sit and down stay tests. In these stay tests handlers will face their dogs. Judge or Steward may not use the words 'Last Command' except in the sit and down stay tests. Handlers may carry a non-squeaky/non-audible toy in their pocket and reward the dog by playing with that toy for up to 20 seconds at the end of each exercise, with the exception of the stay test. The dog is not allowed to play with the toy during the exercise.

1. **Heel on Lead (20 points).** This test must commence with the dog sitting straight at the handler's side. Throughout the test the handler may not touch the dog or make use of the lead without penalty.
2. **Recall (15 points).** From sit or down position at handlers' choice. Handler to walk away from dog in a direction indicated by the Judge **or Steward** until commanded to halt and about turn. Dog to be recalled by the handler when stationary and facing the dog. The dog to return to the handler at a steady pace without hesitation, sit in front and go to heel, all on command of the Judge or Steward. Distance at discretion of Judge. Test commences when handler leaves the dog.
3. **Temperament Test (10 points).** To take place on completion of the main ring work (i.e. after heel on lead and recall) but before the stay exercises. Dog to be on lead in any position, handler to stand by the dog. The Judge to approach quietly, from the front or side, and gently stroke the dog. The Judge may talk quietly to the dog to reassure it. Any undue resentment, cringing etc. must be penalised. However, any dog that growls or attempts to bite shall be disqualified. This is not a stand for examination or a stay test.
4. **Sit Stay, On Lead, one (1) minute (15 points).** Handler in sight and facing the dog. This exercise to be done on a loose lead held by the handler. The length of the lead to be minimum 1.5m, maximum 2m.
5. **Down, On Lead, one (1) minute (15 points).** Handler in sight and facing the dog. This exercise to be done on a loose lead held by the handler. The length of the lead to be minimum 1.5m, maximum 2m.

**Total 75 pts.**

### **BEGINNERS OBEDIENCE CLASS**

Confined to dogs or handlers which have not been awarded an Obedience Green Star or awarded four or more first prizes (on or under 10 marks) in any obedience test, other than Pre-Beginners Obedience Class, under Irish Kennel Club CLG., Rules or under any Kennel Club recognised by The Irish Kennel Club CLG. Handlers will not be penalised for encouragement or extra commands except in the sit and down tests. In these tests, at the discretion of the Judge, handlers may face their dogs. Judge or Steward may not use the words 'Last Command' except in the sit and down tests. Handlers may carry a non-squeaky/non-audible toy in their pocket and reward the dog by playing with that toy for up to 20 seconds at the end of each exercise, with the exception of the stay test. The dog is not allowed to play with the toy during the exercise.

1. **Heel on Lead (15 points).** This test must commence with the dog sitting straight at the handler's side. Throughout the test the handler may not touch the dog or make use of the lead without penalty.
2. **Heel Free (25 points).** This test should be carried out in a similar manner to Heel on Lead except that the dog must be off lead throughout the test.
3. **Recall (15 points).** From sit or down position at handler's choice. Handler to walk away from dog in a direction indicated by the Judge until commanded to halt and about turn. Dog to be recalled by the handler when stationary and facing the dog. The dog to return to the handler at a steady pace without hesitation, sit in front and go to heel all on command of Judge or Steward. Distance at discretion of Judge. Test commences when handler leaves the dog.
4. **Temperament Test (10 points).** To take place on completion of the main ring work (i.e. after heel on Lead, Heel Free and Recall) but before the stay exercises. Dog to be on lead in the stand position, handler to stand by the dog. Judge to approach quietly from the front or side and stroke the dog. The Judge may talk quietly to the dog to reassure it. Any undue resentment, cringing etc. must be penalised. However, any dog that growls or attempts to bite shall be disqualified. This is not a stand for examination or a stay test.
5. **Sit, one (1) minute (15 points).** Handler in sight
6. **Down, one (1) minute (20 points).** Handler in sight.

**Total 100 pts.**

## **NOVICE OBEDIENCE CLASS**

Confined to dogs which have not been awarded an Obedience Green Star or four or more first prizes (on or under 10 marks under Irish Kennel Club CLG., regulations) in any Obedience class other than in Beginners Obedience class.

Handlers will not be penalised for encouragement or extra commands except in the Sit and Down tests. In these tests at the discretion of the Judge, handlers may face their dogs. Judge or Steward must not use the words 'Last Command' except in the Sit and Down tests.

1. **Heel on Lead (10 points).** Definition as for Beginners Class.
2. **Heel Free (20 points).** Definition as for Beginners Class.
3. **Recall (10 points).** From sit or down position at handler's choice. Definition as for Beginners Class
4. **Retrieve any Article (20 points).** Handlers may provide their own article. At the start of this exercise the dog should be sitting at the handler's side. On command the handler must throw the dumbbell/article in the direction indicated by the Judge. The dog should remain in the Sit position until the handler is ordered to send it to retrieve the dumbbell/article. The dog should move out promptly and at a steady pace to collect the dumbbell/article cleanly. It should return with the dumbbell/article at a steady pace and sit straight in front of the handler. On command the handler should take the dumbbell/article from the dog. On further command the dog should be sent to heel.
5. **Temperament Test (10 points).** To take place on completion of the main ring work (i.e. after heel on Lead, Heel Free, Recall and Retrieve) but before the stay exercises. Definition as for Beginners Class.
6. **Sit, one (1) minute (10 points).** Handler in sight.
7. **Down, two (2) minutes (20 points).** Handler in sight.

***Total 100 pts.***

## **CLASS A OBEDIENCE**

Confined to dogs which have not been awarded an Obedience Green Star or four or more first prizes (on or under 10 marks under Irish Kennel Club CLG., regulations) in any Obedience Class other than in Beginners and Novice Obedience classes.

Simultaneous command and signal will be permitted. Extra commands or signals must be penalised.

1. **Heel Free (30 points).** Definition as for Beginners and Novice Classes.
2. **Recall (15 points).** From Sit or Down position at handler's choice. On the instruction of the Steward, the handler leaves their dog. On further instruction of the Steward, whilst the handler is walking away from the dog, the handler shall call the dog to the heel position. The handler and dog continue the heelwork until instructed to halt. The recall and halt points to be the same for each dog and handler.
3. **Retrieve a Dumbbell (25 points).** Handler may use his/her own dumbbell. Definition as for Novice Retrieve.
4. **Sit two (2) minute (20 points).** Handler in sight.
5. **Down three (3) minutes (30 points).** Handler out of sight
6. **Scent Discrimination (30 points).** Handler's scent on cloth provided by Judge. All neutral cloths to be provided by Show Executive. A separate similar cloth to be used for each dog. The total number of cloths to be six in a straight line with handler's scent on one cloth with no decoys. No points will be awarded if cloth is given to the dog.

***Total 150 pts.***

## CLASS B OBEDIENCE

Confined to dogs which have not been awarded a Green Star or four or more first prizes (on or under 10 marks under Irish Kennel Club CLG., regulations) in any Obedience Classes with the exception of Beginners, Novice or Class A Obedience.  
One command, by word or signal, except in Test 2. Extra commands or signals must be penalised.

1. **Heel Free (40 points).** The dog shall be required to walk at heel free and shall also be tested at fast and slow pace. Each change of pace shall commence from the halt position.
2. **Sendaway, Drop and Recall (40 points).** On command of Judge or Steward to handler, the dog to be sent away in direction indicated by Judge. After the dog has been dropped, and on instruction of the Steward, the handler will call the dog to heel whilst walking where directed. The Handler and dog will continue forward until ordered to halt. No obstacle to be placed in the path of the dog. Simultaneous command and signal are permitted, but as soon as the dog leaves the handler the arm must be dropped. (N.B.) an extra command may be simultaneous command and signal, but an extra command must be penalised.
3. **Retrieve (30 points).** Any one article provided by the Judge, but which must not be in any manner injurious to the dog (definitely excluding food and glass). The article to be picked up easily by any breed of dog in the class and to be clearly visible to the dog. A separate similar article to be used for each dog.
4. **Sit two (2) minutes (20 points).** Handler out of sight.
5. **Down four (4) minutes (30 points).** Handler out of sight.
6. **Scent Discrimination (40 points).** Handler's scent on cloth provided by Judge. All neutral and decoy cloths to be provided by the Show Executive. A separate similar cloth for each dog to be given to the handler. Judges must use a separate similar scent decoy or decoys for each dog. The total number of cloths shall be a minimum of six and a maximum of ten. No points will be awarded if the cloth is given to the dog.

**Total 200 pts.**

## CLASS C OBEDIENCE

Open to all Dogs of any breed or variety. One command by word or signal, except in Test 2. Extra commands or signals must be penalised.

1. **Heelwork (60 points).** The dog shall be required to walk at heel free and shall also be tested at fast and slow pace. At some time during this test, at the discretion of the Judge the dog shall be required, whilst walking at heel at normal pace, to be left at the Stand, Sit and Down, in any order (the order to be the same for each dog) as and when directed by the Judge. The handler shall continue forward alone, without hesitation, and continue as directed by the Judge or steward until he reaches his dog, when both shall continue forward together until halted. Heelwork may include left about turns and figures of eight at normal and/or slow pace.
2. **Sendaway, Drop and Recall (40 points).** Definition as in Class B.
3. **Retrieve (30 points).** Definition as in Class B
4. **Distance Control (50 points).** Dogs to sit, stand and down, at a marked place not less than 10 paces from the handler, in any order on command from Judge or Steward to handler. Six instructions to be given in the same order for each dog. Excessive movements i.e., more than the body length of the dog in any direction must be penalised. The dog will start the exercise with its front feet behind a designated point. No penalty for excessive movement in a forward direction shall be imposed until the back leg of the dog passes the designated point.
5. **Sit two (2) minutes (20 points).** Handler out of sight
6. **Down five (5) minutes (50 points).** Handler out of sight.
7. **Scent Discrimination (50 points).** Judge's scent on a piece of marked cloth to be provided by the Judge. Neutral and decoy cloths to be provided by the Show Executive. A separate similar piece of cloth to be used for each dog and the total number of cloths shall be a minimum of six and a maximum of ten. The Judge shall not place his cloth in the ring himself, but it shall be placed by a Steward. The method of taking scent shall be at the discretion of the handler but shall not require the Judge to place his hand on or lean towards the dog.

**Total 300 pts.**

## **CRITERIA FOR ANNUAL IRISH KENNEL CLUB CLG., TOP IRISH OBEDIENCE DOG AWARD**

The following criteria apply to all Irish Kennel Club CLG., licenced Championship shows holding Obedience Tests from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December each year, to determine the Top Irish Obedience Dog.

The Top Irish Obedience Dog will be the dog with the highest number of Obedience Green Stars.

Where there is a tie for the Top Irish Obedience Award, reserve Obedience Green Stars will be counted. Should there still be a tie after reserve Green Stars are counted, a joint award be given.

### **IRISH KENNEL CLUB CLG., RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR OBEDIENCE TESTS**

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

**1. Heel on Lead:**

The dog should be sitting straight at the handler's side. On command the handler should walk briskly forward in a straight line with the dog at heel. The dog's shoulder should be approximately level with, and reasonably close to, the handler's leg at all times when the handler is walking. The lead must be slack at all times. On the command 'Left Turn' or 'Right Turn' the handler should turn smartly at a right angle in the appropriate direction and the dog should keep its position at the handler's side. Unless otherwise directed on the command 'About Turn' the handler should turn about smartly through an angle of 180 degrees to the right and walk in the opposite direction, the dog maintaining its position at the handler's side. On the command 'Halt' the handler should halt immediately, and the dog should sit straight at the handler's side. Throughout this test the handler may not touch the dog or make use of the lead without penalty. Heelwork must be completed as a single exercise.

**2. Heel Free:**

This test should be carried out in a similar manner as for Heel on Lead, except that the dog must be off lead throughout the test. Heelwork must be completed as a single exercise.

**3. Recall:**

See specific class tests.

**4. Retrieve a Dumbbell/Article:**

See specific class tests.

**5. Stay Tests:**

This is a group test, and all dogs must compete together where this is impracticable at any show the class may be divided.

**(a) Sit Stay:**

The Judge or Steward will direct handlers to positions in the ring. The number of dogs and handlers per stay steward in any class or test must not exceed six. The order 'Last Command' will be given to handlers who should then instantly give their final command to their dogs. Any further commands or signals after this 'Last Command' will be penalised by the loss of the entire marks for that exercise. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and walk to the positions indicated until ordered to return to them. Dogs should remain at the sit position throughout the test.

**(b) Down Stay:**

This test should be carried out exactly as for the Sit Stay, except that dogs will be left in the Down position throughout the test.

**6. Scent Tests:**

The Judge must not place his/her cloth in the ring. It must be placed by a Steward. The decoy must be placed by the Decoy Steward. The decoy must not be held by the decoy steward for a period longer than the Judge holds his/her cloth.

To commence the test the dog should be facing away from the cloths. On command the handler should bring the dog to the point indicated, give the scent and stand upright before sending the dog to find and retrieve the appropriate cloth. The dog should find the cloth and complete the test as for the Retrieve Test. If a dog fetches or fouls a wrong cloth this must be replaced by a fresh one. Cloths used for scent must not be commercially impregnated cloths. All cloths must be weighted for open-air shows and to be a minimum of six inches by six inches and maximum of ten inches by ten inches. A separate similar piece of cloth shall be available to be used for giving each dog the scent. Judges should use scent decoys. Cloths are to be placed a minimum of two feet and a maximum of four feet apart and a minimum of two yards from any of the ring boundaries. Limiting the time allowed for this test is at the Judge's discretion. The Judge must announce to each competitor before the commencement of the exercise if there is (1) a time limit (2) a scent area and it must be the same for each dog.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR ALL STAY EXERCISES

**STAY STEWARDS:** The number of dogs and handlers per Stay Steward in any class or test must not exceed six (6).

**MOVEMENT IN STAYS:** In all stay tests minor movements must be penalised. In the event, however, of any dog breaking stays the following graduated scale of points to be deducted from that dog's total score.

### THE ONE (1) MINUTE STAY ..... VALUE ..... 15 points

(Pre-Beginners Sit, Pre-Beginners Down, Beginners Sit)

<b>BREAKS</b>	<b>POINTS LOST</b>
0-12 Secs.	15 pts.
13-24 Secs.	12 pts.
25-36 Secs.	9 pts.
37-48 Secs.	6 pts.
49-60 Secs.	3 pts.
Handler's Return	at Judges discretion.

### THE ONE (1) MINUTE STAY ..... VALUE ..... 20 points

(Beginners Down)

<b>BREAKS</b>	<b>POINTS LOST</b>
0-6 Secs.	20 pts.
7-12 Secs.	18 pts.
13-18 Secs.	16 pts.
19-24 Secs.	14 pts.
25-30 Secs.	12 pts.
31-36 Secs.	10 pts.
37-42 Secs.	8 pts.
43-48 Secs.	6 pts.
49-54 Secs.	4 pts.
55-60 Secs.	2 pts.
Handler's Return	at Judges discretion.

### THE ONE (1) MINUTE STAY ..... VALUE ..... 10 points

(Novice Sit)

<b>BREAKS</b>	<b>POINTS LOST</b>
0-15 Secs.	10 pts.
16-30 Secs.	7.5 pts.
31-45 Secs.	5 pts.
46-60 Secs.	2.5 pts.
Handler's Return	at Judges discretion.

### THE TWO (2) MINUTES STAY ..... VALUE ..... 20 points

(Novice Down, Class A Sit, Class B Sit, Class C Sit)

<b>BREAKS</b>	<b>POINTS LOST</b>
0-15 Secs.	20 pts.
16-30 Secs.	17.5 pts.
31-45 Secs.	15 pts.
46-60 Secs.	12.5 pts.
1 Min. 15 Secs	10 pts.
1 Min. 16 Secs. - 1 Min. 30 Secs.	7.5 pts.
1 Min. 31 Secs. - 1 Min. 45 Secs.	5 pts.
1 Min. 46 Secs. - 2 Min.	2.5 pts.
Handler's Return	at Judges discretion.

**THE THREE (3) MINUTES STAY ..... VALUE ..... 30 points****(Class A Down)**

<b>BREAKS</b>	<b>POINTS LOST</b>
0-30 Secs.	30 pts.
31 Secs. - 1 Min.	25 pts.
1 Min. 1 Sec. - 1 Min. 30 Secs.	20 pts.
1 Min. 31 Secs. - 2 Min.	15 pts.
2 Min. 1 Sec. - 2 Min. 30 Secs.	10 pts.
2 Min. 31 Secs. - 3 Min.	5 pts.
Handler's Return	at Judges discretion.

**THE FOUR (4) MINUTES STAY ..... VALUE ..... 30 points****(Class B Down)**

<b>BREAKS</b>	<b>POINTS LOST</b>
0-30 Secs.	30 pts.
31 Secs. - 1 Min.	26 pts.
1 Min. 1 Sec. - 1 Min. 30 Secs.	22 pts.
1 Min. 31 Secs. - 2 Min.	18 pts.
2 Min. 1 Sec. - 2 Min. 30 Secs.	14 pts.
2 Min. 31 Secs. - 3 Min.	10 pts.
3 Min. 1 Sec. - 3 Min. 30 Secs.	8 pts.
3 Min. 31 Secs. - 4 Min.	4 pts.
Handler's Return	at Judges discretion.

**THE FIVE (5) MINUTES STAY ..... VALUE ..... 50 points****(Class C Down)**

<b>BREAKS</b>	<b>POINTS LOST</b>
0-30 Sec.	50 pts.
31 Secs. - 1 Min.	45 pts.
1 Min. 1 Sec. - 1 Min. 30 Secs.	40 pts.
1 Min. 31 Sec. - 2 Min.	35 pts.
2 Min. 1 Sec. - 2 Min. 30 Secs.	30 pts.
2 Min. 31 Sec. - 3 Min.	25 pts.
3 Min. 1 Sec. - 3 Min. 30 Secs.	20 pts.
3 Min. 31 Sec. - 4 Min.	15 pts.
4 Min. 1 Sec. - 4 Min. 30 Secs.	10 pts.
4 Min. 31 Sec. - 5 Min.	5 pts.
Handler's Return	at Judges discretion.