

AUGUST 2021

# PERFORMANCE JUDGES NEWSLETTER





## CURRENT AFFAIRS

We have had a lot of changes in our performance programs over the last year and limited opportunities for Judges and exhibitors to put the new changes into practice due to the pandemic. We are looking forward to our programs offering the opportunity for our exhibitors to enjoy spending time once again with their dogs and friends. To be proactive with our Judges, we would like to touch base again on the changes within the programs. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need any clarification with any of the rules. We are always available for you.

For specific events, please contact the program manager for those events:

Karen A. Shivers: Nosework, Rally & Obedience

[kshivers@ukcdogs.com](mailto:kshivers@ukcdogs.com)

Denise Vavla: Conformation, Drag Racing, Lure Coursing, & Weight Pull

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Hannah Tsui: Dock Jumping, Agility & Precision Coursing

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## NEW JUDGE'S BADGE

If you have not received it yet, a new Judge's badge is coming your way! Please use the new badge for any future Judging assignments. If you have not received your badge, please contact us at [judges@ukcdogs.com](mailto:judges@ukcdogs.com).

## HOT WEATHER SHOWS

**Heat Kills.** While it is great to be back showing, most of the country (USA), has been experiencing a hotter than normal summer. As a reminder, it is very important to keep the dogs, as well as exhibitors, in mind while they are showing in this extreme heat. It does not take much exertion before a dog or handler is overheated. If judging outside, be sure to use shade wisely, and to remind everyone to keep themselves and their dogs hydrated.

## JUDGE'S BOOKS

**Marking and correcting your Judge's books.** Nobody is above making errors, or mistakes. What matters is how these errors are handled and corrected. When judging, errors made by a Judge are normally caught and corrected immediately, or if not, hopefully it is corrected on the same day or same weekend while still at the event. In the best-case scenario, the earlier an error is caught and corrected, the better. The longer an error sits, the likelihood of the Judge remembering what really happened tends to fade. When an error has been discovered, here is the procedure UKC would like a Judge to follow:

- **When an error has been found and the Judge still has access to the original Judge's book.** If a Judge has the original Judge's book and they need to make a correction, the Judge should mark a single line across the incorrect information, and then make the necessary correction to the Judge's book. The Judge

must then initial all the additional entry corrections made after the fact.

- **When an error is found after the event and the original Judge's books are not accessible.** In cases where a Judge has left the show and finds an error on their Judge's book, the Judge must contact UKC directly and submit their correction in writing. At no time should a Judge contact the hosting club and ask them to alter any Judge's book due to errors. The following ways to submit corrections are acceptable:
  - Make a copy of the Judge's book, with the marked corrections and submit this to the UKC All-Breed Sports office by regular mail or email to [judges@ukcdogs.com](mailto:judges@ukcdogs.com). This is the best way to communicate corrections.
  - Email [judges@ukcdogs.com](mailto:judges@ukcdogs.com), and provide a detailed list of the corrections, including the name of the club, date of event and show number, and what is needing to be corrected, which must include:
    - Breed
    - Registration number (if available)
    - Armband Number
    - Class
    - Detailed correction

## WHEN TO EXCUSE

As Judges, we expect you to know and understand when a dog should be excused from the ring for any events you are judging. There are many reasons why a particular dog on a particular day is just not up to their best performance. Dogs that show extreme stress, apprehension, fear, are lame, or appear ill should be excused from the ring. Be sure to be kind to the exhibitor and explain to them what your reasoning was and assure them that it is only at that time and for that class.

## NOSEWORK

The main premise of Nosework is that dogs are finding a hidden odor that the handler has trained the dog to find and alert on. To do this, there needs to be areas to search. While it would be great to have a facility that could offer perfect areas for all the elements, that is not normally available. This is the reason for the allowance of "staged" areas. Of course, if natural areas are available, they can certainly be used, however, once a Judge places a hide on an area that cannot be removed from the specific search area, once that class is over, that area can no longer be used. For instance, if there is a brick wall that has locations a hide can be placed, once that class is over, that area can no longer be used since the brick wall cannot be removed. **We do not allow the area to be "cleaned" with any substance and then place an "X" on the location of the hide to be avoided in the next search. This includes vehicles in a vehicle trial. Once a vehicle is used, the hide cannot be removed and an "X" placed on the spot where the hide was, and a new hide placed somewhere else on the vehicle to be used again.**

**Prohibited items:** In the search areas,



exhibitors are not allowed to have active cell phones, video devices, or Go Pros on themselves or their dogs. The Nosework rules has an allowance for an additional person to come into the search area with the exhibitor to take pictures or video their dog during their performance. Neither a Judge nor a club can prohibit an exhibitor from recording their performance if it adheres to these rules. The only exception is if the club hired an official photographer or videographer to perform this function. Exhibitors or spectators are not allowed to smoke or vape within, or around any of the search areas. Judges may ask exhibitors or spectators to leave the area if they are smoking or vaping.

**Spectators:** Nosework is a fun sport to watch and UKC would like spectators and people interested in the sport to be able to watch. It is understood that some areas are just not set up to allow spectators and that is perfectly fine. When possible, accommodations for spectators should be made available.

**Class Divisions.** Clubs and Judges need to understand the nature of the “A” and “B” class divisions in case they are asked by an exhibitor where they need to be entered. If the dog does not have a title in that class and element, the dog qualifies to be in the “A” class unless it is owned by a Judge or professional in detection. To avoid any confusion, please review the summary below.

#### The “A” class is for:

- Dogs that do not have a title in that element and level.
- Dogs can be working in different elements and in different levels at the same trial and can therefore be in both “A” and “B” classes at the same trial.
  - Example: Dog can be entered in Novice “B” Containers working on Championship points in Novice and Advanced “A” Interiors working on Advanced Interior title.

#### The “B” class is for:

- Dogs that have a title in the element they are working in,
- Dogs that have an equivalent title in another organization in the level they are working in,
- Dogs that are owned by a Nosework Judge (any organization) or a professional in the detection field,
- Dogs that are not being handled by the owner.
  - Example: Second dogs entered in the same class by the same owner must be run by a different handler that is also not entered in the class. This dog must be in the “B” class.

**Class Championships.** Class Champion titles can now be earned in any order, just like the class Grand Champion titles. The dog must have the full level title before any legs will be applied to the class Champion or Grand Champion title. For instance, the dog must have a full Novice Nosework title to work on the Novice Championship and a Novice Championship title to work on the Grand Champion title. If the dog has not completed those titles, legs will not count toward the next level title.

**Faults.** There are many instances in a Nosework trial where dogs can be faulted. If they are making an error, or if the handler has made an error, the team should be faulted. If they are not faulted then it is unfair to another team that had a perfect and clean run to lose to a dog that should have been faulted, was not faulted,

and had a faster time.

**Non-Qualifying Faults.** Please be aware that the following are faults that will deem the search as a non-qualifying run, in addition to incorrect calls, false alerts, and timing out.

- **Prior to Alert.** Any dog that exposes the scent container or distraction before the alert is called by the handler must receive a non-qualifying fault.
- **Miss/Non-indication.** Master & Elite class only. If the dog fails to exhibit the pre-defined trained behavior in the known presence of the target odor on which the dog was trained.

**Alerts.** Beginning in the Master level, the alert behavior **must** be stated on the entry form and the Judge must know what that alert behavior is. The dog must be exhibiting the alert behavior specified on the entry form when the handler calls “Alert.” If the dog is not exhibiting the pre-defined or final response to odor, then this could be deemed as a fault or a non-qualifying search depending on the extent of the deviation from the ideal. Please be sure the alert behavior is specified on the scoresheet for all upper-level classes and the dogs are exhibiting that defined behavior.

- **Master Classes:** Up to three behaviors may be listed and the dog must be exhibiting at least one of them when the handler calls the alert.
- **Elite Classes:** No more than two behaviors may be listed, and the dog must be exhibiting at least one of them when the handler calls the alert.
- **Handler Discrimination:** Need not be listed for Novice, Advanced or Excellent. Must be listed as a sit or a down for the Master class.

**Vehicles.** Please be very aware of the difficulty in securing vehicles for vehicle trials. The Certifying Official (Judge) is the one that oversees how vehicles are used and how dogs are performing during vehicle searches. Judges must not let any dog that shows any type of aggressive response search a vehicle without wearing booties of some type. Homemade booties made by the handler are acceptable if they prevent damage to the vehicle. If the dog performs an aggressive-type alert, it is the Judges responsibility to fault the dog and inform the handler that the dog will be required to wear booties of some type for any remaining vehicle searches. Dogs simply placing the pads of their feet on a vehicle are not considered aggressive alerts, however, a fast dog that jumps up and down on a vehicle may be required to wear booties, if, in the Judges opinion the dog could damage a vehicle. It is the handler’s responsibility to either train the dog so that it does not have an aggressive alert, as specified in the rules, or to have some type of booties on the dog to prevent damage to any vehicles.

**Aggressive Response.** As a Certifying Official it is the responsibility of that Judge to uphold the rules of the game. Dogs exhibiting an aggressive alert or response to odor must be faulted for each instance. Any behavior that compromises the integrity of the hide or causes damage must be acknowledged by the Judge with a fault all the way up to a non-qualifying score. Judges need to be sure they are following this rule. Examples of aggressive responses include, but are not limited to: scratching,



pawing, pushing objects, digging, biting, excessive licking, leaving bite/scratch marks, damage to any object in the search area. If a dog damages any object in the search area so that it needs to be replaced the dog should receive a non-qualifying score. If the dog is aggressive on one item and then aggressive on another item, that should be two faults and a non-qualifying score.

**Distractions.** The rules state that the club is responsible for providing items such as food or toys as distractions. Judges are allowed to use distractions they provide and can use any distraction they feel is appropriate for the class level if it meets the criteria in the rules for a distraction. This includes any type of food that is not toxic to the dog. That food must be contained inside something so that if it is exposed by the dog, or by accident, the dog cannot eat it. Containers with holes in it, suet cages, muslin bags, etc., can all be used. Distraction size is not limited to being able to fit inside a normal small scent tin. All distractions, either food or toy, must be hidden so that the handler does not know where the distraction is located. You should not disclose what the distraction is, or where it is located to an exhibitor during a search. If you would like to discuss that with an exhibitor after the trial, that is perfectly acceptable.

**Preparing Odors.** Clubs are required to have scent kits at their trials for judges to use. A Judge may also prepare their own oils/hides within the specified time frame and use those as well. Please let the club know if you will be using your own oils or if you will be using oils provided by the club.

## HANDLER DISCRIMINATION.

**Novice & Advanced:** When judging HD for Novice and Advanced, the Judge must be the one collecting the glove from the exhibitor. The reason for this is the Judge must be sure that the glove meets the specifications in the rules and does not have any food hidden inside it or have any Nosework odor on it to help the dog. Once the Judge has collected the glove, they can then allow the steward to place the box in the line.

**Master:** All personal items must fit inside the box without being seen over the edges. Boxes are pre-numbered and either have the flaps removed or folded down inside the box.

Judges are not allowed to do the following:

- Show handlers what number their box is.
- Show handlers where the box is placed in the search area.
- Allow handlers who have not gone yet to watch any runs.
- Allow handlers to “look” for their box when they enter the search area.

Judges must make sure handler’s do the following:

- Standing in the designated area.
- Not using any type of hand signal or forward motion of their body to send the dog to search, or during the search.
- Not speaking to or using any additional commands or praise while the dog is working.

- Remain quietly facing forward before sending the dog and during the search.

## NOSEWORK CLASSES.

**Elite Class.** The Elite class is just that, Elite. It is purposely a difficult class. Under no circumstances is a Judge to tell a handler or give a clue to the handler as to how many hides are in the Elite class. This is a class with an unknown number of hides and the requirement of a specific trained response to odor for a reason. Not every dog is expected to obtain an Elite title, much like every dog in obedience is not expected to earn a Utility title. Judge’s must not compromise the integrity of the Elite class for any reason or make it easier in some manner just to allow more exhibitors to qualify. It is very common in the Elite class to have a higher failure rate than a pass rate. If Judges consistently have a very high pass rate in this level class, it becomes questionable as to if the handler is aware of the number of hides or where they are located.

Be mindful if the search area is close to the crating area or if you have a dog that alerts by barking. If exhibitors can hear the handler that is currently searching, they will listen for the handler calling the alerts and will be given an advantage when it is their turn. Judges are allowed in these instances to ask the handler to give a silent alert notification of the Judge’s choice. If there is a dog that barks as the alert behavior, please run that dog last in the order and explain to the exhibitor the reason why they are being moved to run at the end of the class.

## OBEDIENCE

Please note that as of July 2, 2021, all new Obedience classes except the Elite and Non-Licensed classes must be offered at Obedience trials.

Regular licensed classes (required): Novice, Open and Utility.

Additional licensed classes (required): Pre-Novice, Beginner Novice, Advanced Novice, Advanced Open, and Master.

Additional Licensed class (optional): Elite

Non-Licensed classes (optional): Veteran, Brace, Versatility, Precision Heeling, Pairs, and Teams.

**Video Series.** UKC has done a video series titled Obedience Trial Series – UKC All Breed Sports, on all the Obedience classes from Pre-Novice through Elite and the Non-Licensed Precision Heeling class. Please view all the class videos if you have not already done so as they will give you a very good reference tool when judging these classes. Videos can be accessed on the UKC YouTube channel. If you have not subscribed to the channel, you may also want to do that. Here is the direct link to the playlist: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLb\\_krZ1jPbRgS3fJRCzMNmVUsEQT-lfc-](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLb_krZ1jPbRgS3fJRCzMNmVUsEQT-lfc-)

**Jump Heights.** Handlers must select either Standard or Minimum jump height and have the dog’s height at the withers on their entry form when entering an Obedience class where jump



heights are applicable. Any dog is eligible to jump the minimum jump height regardless of their age or breed. For the Beginner Novice class, all dogs must use the minimum jump height.

**Ring sizes.** Rings for all required Rally and Obedience classes must be at least 40 x 50 feet. The Elite and Non-Licensed Teams class must have a minimum ring size of 40 x 70 feet.

#### **Exhibitor Equipment and Regulations.**

- Pre-Novice and Beginner Novice: Six-foot leash required.
- Novice: Six-foot leash required for Honor exercise.
- Utility class: Exhibitors are allowed to have scent articles made of metal, leather, or wood. They must still be identical and numbered for identification.
- Master class: Exhibitors will need one solid, dark-colored glove made of cotton or leather. They are not allowed to use the white cotton gloves that are normally used for the Utility class.
- Master class: Exhibitors must provide a personal item that fits inside the specified cardboard box without coming out over the top of the box.
- If a dog eliminates, spits up, or vomits at any time in the ring, the dog must be excused and may not complete any remaining exercises.
- Pre-Novice and Beginner Novice: Six-foot leash required.

**Commands/Signals.** In all Obedience classes except the Utility Signal exercise, the Master Seek Back exercise, the Master and Elite discrimination exercises, and the Elite Signal Heeling with Moving Stand for Exam exercise, handlers are allowed to use both commands and/or signals.

**Deductions.** In addition to the regular minor (1/2 to 2 points) and major (2.5 and above) deductions there is now a mandatory deduction of 10 points for specific exercises. Those exercises are:

- Novice Recall/Advanced Novice Recall: Handler gives second command and/or signal to come.
- Advanced Novice: Handler gives second command and/or signal to take or hold the dumbbell
- Advanced Novice Recall Over High Jump w/dumbbell: Second command and/or signal to come.
- Advanced Novice Recall Over Broad Jump: Second command and/or signal to come.
- Utility Directed Signal Retrieve: Dog does not sit after the second sit command.
- Master/Elite Handler Discrimination: Dog changes position during three second stabilization period.
- Master/Elite Handler Discrimination: Handler does not stay facing forward during any part of the search.

**Hand Positions.** Handlers with larger dogs should not be penalized if their arms are hanging freely at their sides and the left arm is held slightly out and on the left side of the dog's head so as not to hit the dog. The arm must still move naturally and cannot be held in place as a cue for the dog to be in specific position. It should be quite evident to a judge if the latter is being done. In the Pre-Novice and Beginner Novice class the handler is allowed to cue the dog to a front position with their hands/arms.

**Ties/Run-Offs in Pre-Novice and Beginner Novice.** When judging, if a tie happens between two or more participants in the Pre-Novice or Beginner Novice class for placements, please allow the exhibitors in these two classes to do those exercises on leash. In both these classes the heeling exercise is on leash. For any ties in UKC Obedience for class placements a system commonly called "sudden death" is used. This is where all the competitors that have the same score perform simultaneously until an error is made by one of the participants. Dogs who do not perform the Heel off Leash exercise in their normal class will not be expected to perform it for a run-off. There will be a clarification in the rulebook for this as well.

**High In Trial.** We understand that new rules and regulations take some time to get used to. With this in mind, we wanted to provide a review of the new High in Trial award below.

There will always be 7 dogs who could become eligible for the High in Trial competition (the first-place dogs in Novice A, B, C, Open A, B, Utility A, B). Of those seven dogs, to compete for High in Trial, those dogs must have earned a score of at least 195 or above. If there are not any dogs that score 195 or above, then the HIT process reverts to the older version where HIT will go to the highest scoring dog in the trial. Scores must be below 195 and every dog in the trial must have scored below 195 for HIT to be awarded this way.

If any of the qualifying dogs for High in Trial choose not to stay for the HIT competition, they are to be marked absent. If only one dog that qualified to compete for HIT is present, that dog will win HIT. If all dogs that are eligible for HIT are absent, the award will be withheld since the competition for HIT could not be held.

We have now added the following statement in bold and italics in the rulebook for clarification: ***If all eligible dogs competing for High in Trial are absent, the High in Trial award will be withheld.***

Please review the rulebook on how to determine High in Trial located in Chapter 28. *Placements, Awards, Trophies, and Ribbons, on page 70 of the UKC Obedience Rulebook.*

**High in Trial Exercises.** The heel off leash pattern must be a pattern other than an "L" or "T" pattern. Dogs must also perform a straight recall and a finish, without a drop or a jump. Scoring for those two exercises will be the same as the Heel Off Leash Exercise and the Recall over the Jump, except there will be no deductions related to the jump. The Judge will score only the errors made by the handler and dog. The team with the fewest errors will be determined the winner for High in Trial. Ties will be broken in accordance with the standard run-off procedure.

**High In Trial Scoresheet.** There is a new High in Trial Scoresheet available on the website. This scoresheet is meant to help clubs and judges keep track of the dogs eligible for High in Trial. Club secretaries or stewards should prepare this sheet for the judge so that it is ready at the end of the trial. This sheet is required to be included in the final club paperwork for each trial. It can be found here: [https://www.ukcdogs.com/docs/showforms/high\\_in\\_trial\\_scoresheet.pdf](https://www.ukcdogs.com/docs/showforms/high_in_trial_scoresheet.pdf). The Judge or steward is responsible for filling in the deductions for both the heeling and recall exercises and the total deductions. The High in Trial armband and class must then be written in at the bottom of the form.

## RALLY

The new Rally program has been out for just over a year now and it is going strong. In addition to new signs and new classes, one of the major changes was the size of the ring. Both Obedience and Rally now have the same ring size to make it easier for clubs and be more consistent. All rings must be at least 40 by 50 feet and can be larger if the club has the space. The newest class in Rally is the Master class. It is a fun class that has some unique challenges and offers the chance at a few more combination titles within the scope of Rally.

**Video Series.** UKC has done a video series titled Rally Obedience Exercise Demonstrations – United Kennel Club on the Rally classes from R01, R02, R03 and Master. Please view all the class videos if you have not already done so as they will give you a very good reference tool when judging these classes. You can access the videos on the UKC YouTube channel. If you have not subscribed to the channel, you may also want to do that. Here is the direct link to the playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbkrZ1jPbRjCp6tnKgWH95QH83vOBWeG>

When the YouTube channel is accessed, there is a Q&A that talks about the new changes and updates and then a list of the videos. The main videos are called, *Learn the Beginner Rally Obedience Exercises*, *Learn the Rally 2 Exercises*, *Learn the Rally 3 Exercises*, and *Learn Rally Master exercises*. Within these videos the format will be a general explanation of the class, signs, and a demonstration of a full class. After the demonstration of a dog performing the class, each sign will be performed individually twice, the first time as an overall picture and the second time focused on the dog. Within the main channel list are also individual signs that were performed when the Rally program was first released. If you want to view just one sign, they can be accessed this way too. This is just the performance of the sign with no explanation.

**New Signs.** Rally signs were updated, and new color formats were added to them for additional clarity. Clubs are allowed to use black and white signs, however, all signs that require a halt must have a red hexagonal inset on the sign with the word HALT in white letters against the red background of the halt.

**Jumps.** Please be sure when using jumps that there is enough allowance for space for a large dog to negotiate the jump and the next sign. In any of the classes a solid or bar jump may be used. The broad jump can only be used in the Master class.

**Barking and Whining.** Dogs that bark once or twice during their performance should not be penalized. Dogs can be penalized for barking or whining depending on the degree of intensity and frequency. Dogs that bark more than once or twice can receive a major deduction, while dogs that bark continuously throughout the performance will receive a non-qualifying score. Dogs that whine continuously throughout the performance should receive a mandatory 10-point deduction.

**Excusing a Handler.** Handlers must be excused for exhibiting poor sportsmanship and the dog cannot participate in the trial with a different handler. If a handler asked to be excused for any reason, the judge must grant the excusal without asking the handler to perform any additional exercises. All excusals must be recorded in the judge's book.

**Luring.** Excessive body movements such as handlers using their arm or hand directly in the face of their dog and guiding them into every position or through the performance can be penalized. Handlers who lure dogs through exercises when the dog could not have performed the station without all the additional help can be penalized upon the extent of the deviation, up to and including a non-qualifying score.

**Missed Stations and Exercises.** Unlike other organizations, if a handler misses a station or does not execute the station correctly upon one retry, they will receive a non-qualifying score. Please do not deduct 10 points for missed or incorrectly performed stations and qualify the dog.

**Honor Exercise.** The Honor exercise is only used in the R03 class. A change in the rules for this exercise is, if the dog changes position one time during the exercise, a mandatory 10-point deduction must be applied. If the dog changes position a second time, the dog will receive a non-qualifying score.

**Signs with Stand.** Except for the Master class, all exercises that require the dog to stand allow the handler to signal, command or turn towards the dog and use gentle physical contact to stand the dog. The handler must return to heel position before continuing to the next exercise.

**Fault Assessment Graph.** There is a graph on page 14 of the rulebook that provides an easy reference to general assessments for specific deviations in a performance. The list is not exclusive, but it does give the judge a good idea of the reasons, types and amounts of deductions that can be applied to a performance.

## DRAG RACING

We are excited to announce the latest revisions to the UKC Drag Racing program. Significant changes are outlined in the Official Highlight Document (PDF) and will be identified in bold and italic text throughout the rulebook. **All changes will be effective on January 1, 2022.**

1. There are more Drag Racing Titles available.
2. Dogs with drag racing experience or drag racing titles in other venues, may automatically start at the Advanced or Regular class level.
3. There are grandfather clauses for Advanced and Regular racers.

The link to the Drag Racing announcement of the changes and to the Drag Racing rulebook can be found on the UKC website here:

[https://www.ukcdogs.com/article/new-drag-racing-rulebook?news\\_id=3&view=recent](https://www.ukcdogs.com/article/new-drag-racing-rulebook?news_id=3&view=recent)

Any questions or comments regarding these proposed rules can be sent to us at [performance@ukcdogs.com](mailto:performance@ukcdogs.com).

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding any of our events. We are always here to support our clubs, Judges, and exhibitors.