

Definition of Limited Obedience Classes – incorporating changes to the Obedience G Regulations, effective 1 January 2024

Food and/or toys shall not be carried or given to a dog under test except in Introductory, and Pre-Beginner Classes where silent toy and food rewards may be used in accordance with the relevant class Regulations and in a Special Class if specified in the class definition. Competitors must not distract other dogs when rewarding their dog with food, toy or play. (Refer to Obedience Code of Conduct)

Class 25. Introductory.

- a. This class is to introduce and support newcomers to competitive obedience competition. In this class only incentives in the form of a toy or rewards are allowed to be carried by the handler in the competitive ring and may be given to the dog at the end of an exercise or in between exercises. Rewards include food which must be carried in a small, closed container during the exercises. The judge will designate an area in the competitive ring where food may be given to the dog by the handler.
- b. To compete in the Introductory Class a handler or dog must not have gained a 1st place in any obedience class, and have not elected to progress on points from Introductory.
- c. Handlers will not be penalised for encouragement or extra commands in all exercises.
- d. In any exercise attempted the competing team cannot lose all the allocated points for that exercise but must be awarded a minimum of one point for each exercise they have attempted.
- e. The detailed test will be:
 - (1) Engagement - this will be marked throughout the test - the use of motivators and rewards before and between exercises which may include food, silent toys, tricks, and verbal and physical praise within the reward area of the ring. Toys and food in a sealed container, must either be left on the reward table, or be concealed in the handler's pocket during tests, where only verbal motivation may be used to keep the dog engaged. 10 points
 - (2) Heelwork to be set and marked as 2 distinct exercises:-
 - 2a. 'Heelwork set up on lead' and 2b. 'Heelwork on lead'
 - a) Heelwork Set Up - on lead, handler to set the dog up in heelwork position, in a designated spot, facing the judge, on steward's command. Handler to be asked if they are ready, when this is acknowledged, steward will say 'end of test' 2 points

b) Heel on lead, from a moving start and detailed in Annex G(C)4 c and d - Tests	8 points
(3) Recall, to be set and marked as 3 distinct exercises:-	
(a) 'Recall Present' – On lead dog sitting in front of the handler, handler takes one step back on steward's command, then calls the dog into the present again on steward's command, the steward will say 'end of test'	2 points
(b) 'Recall Finish' – on lead. Dog sitting in front of the handler, on steward's command, handler directs the dog to heel, whilst keeping feet still, the steward will say 'end of test'	2 points
(c) 'Recall – on/off a long line – handler's choice'. On command, the handler shall leave the dog in a sit or a down in the direction instructed. When instructed, the handler will halt and then turn to face the dog. When instructed, the handler will recall the dog which must return briskly – no present is required, but will not be penalised – once the dog has returned, the steward will say 'end of test'	6 points
(4) TOTAL	30 points

Class 26. Pre-Beginners.

a. To compete in Pre-Beginners a handler or dog must not have won two first places in either Pre-Beginners or Beginners nor gained a third place or above in any other competitive Obedience Class (Introductory Class excepted) and have not elected to progress on points from Pre-Beginners. In this class only incentives in the form of a toy or rewards are allowed to be carried by the handler in the competitive ring and may be given to the dog at the end of an exercise or in between exercises. Rewards include food which must be carried in a small closed container during the exercises. The judge will designate an area in the competitive ring where food may be given to the dog by the handler.

b. The detailed tests will be:

(1) Heel on lead	15 points
(2) Heel free	20 points
(3) Recall	10 points
(4) TOTAL	45 points

Class 27. Beginners.

a. To compete in Beginners a dog must not have won a total of two or more first places in Beginners class or one first place in any other competitive obedience class (Introductory class and Pre-Beginners excepted) and have not elected to progress on points from Beginners; plus, the handler must not have won a first place in any other Obedience class (Introductory class, Pre-

Beginners and Beginners excepted) and have not elected to progress on points from Novice. Handlers that have previously entered Novice as their lowest available class before 31 December 2024 may elect to continue to treat Novice as their lowest available class. Once they have elected to do so they will not be eligible for Beginners thereafter.

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| b. The detailed tests will be: | 15 points |
| (1) Heel on lead | 20 points |
| (2) Heel free | 10 points |
| (3) Recall | 25 points |
| (4) Retrieve any article | 70 points |
| (5) TOTAL | |

Class 28. Novice.

a. For dogs which have not won 2 first places in Competitive Obedience classes (Introductory class, Pre-Beginners and Beginners excepted) and where the handler has not elected to progress on points from Novice.

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| b. The detailed tests will be: | 20 points |
| (1) Heel on lead | 25 points |
| (2) Heel free | 10 points |
| (3) Recall | 15 points |
| (4) Retrieve a dumbbell | 70 points |
| (5) TOTAL | |