



# Obedience & Rally

February 25, 2014

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Dear AKC Obedience Club Officer:

The following recommendations were presented to the AKC Board of Directors at the February 2014 meeting and were to address the concerns of dog-on-dog attacks in the Group Exercises. Incidences of this nature are rare in obedience group exercises – there have been two in the past three years. Nevertheless, the situation is quite disturbing for the sport. Many owners are naturally concerned. The Companion Events Department felt it was prudent to review the Regulations and Guidelines to insure that all reasonable steps were being taken to minimize this type of occurrence.

1. If a dog has non-qualified in an individual exercise and, in the opinion of the judge the dog demonstrated uncontrolled behavior, the judge must release the dog from performing the group exercises. (Chapter 3, Section 12 and Guidelines Chapter 3)
2. Dogs must be spaced with a minimum of 4 feet between each dog. (Chapter 3, Section 12)
3. Require that dogs be under control while entering and exiting the ring. (Chapter 3, Section 12)
4. Judges must stand with their full attention on the dogs and remain alert for potential problems. (Guidelines, Chapter 3)
5. In Novice group exercises, the judge must promptly instruct the handler to remove a dog that interferes. (Chapter 3, Section 12 & Guidelines, Chapter 3)
6. In Graduate Novice and Open classes, if a dog leaves the place where it was left during the group exercise, the judge has the option of either asking that the handler be recalled to remove the dog or promptly instructing the steward to remove the dog, depending on the nature of the occurrence. The judge's decision shall be guided by consideration for the safety of all involved. Two stewards must assist the judge and both stewards must be provided slip leads to remove a dog. (Chapter 4, Section 15 & Guidelines, Chapter 2 and Chapter 3)
7. At the conclusion of a group exercise, the judge will state: "Exercise finished. Put your leash on your dog. Maintain control of your dog." (Chapter 3, Section 12)
8. If a judge observes any signs of aggression or potential problems with the dogs as they are assembling for the group exercise, the judge must excuse the dog. (Guidelines, Chapter 3)

As a result, the *Obedience Regulations and Judges' Guidelines* have been amended by the AKC Board of Directors. These changes are meant to increase the safety of dogs participating in Obedience Group Exercises and are **effective**

**May 1, 2014.** Please view the regulation changes in detail [here](#).

Sincerely,

Pamela Manaton  
Director of Obedience, Rally & Tracking

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