

# FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (FCI) (AISBL)

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## RULES & GUIDELINES for OBEDIENCE TRIALS for CLASSES 1 & 2 & 3

Rules and guidelines for Class 3 are used in  
international obedience **competitions (CACIOB)**  
and  
**championship competitions**



**Effective from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021**

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Obedience (OB) training teaches a dog how to act in a co-operative and controlled way. Emphasis should be put on establishing good contact between the dog and the handler and on achieving the dog's willingness to obey even when at distance from the handler. Handler and dog should display a good overall relationship.

These rules and guidelines have been compiled to promote the sport of obedience and to support competition across national borders.

These rules and guidelines are applied at obedience trials in countries in which the Kennel Clubs have chosen to follow them.

In international trials with CACIOB the Class 3 rules must be followed from 1.1.2021.

Results from other obedience trials with different performances, but which meet the corresponding requirements should be acknowledged.

## I RULES CONCERNING ARRANGING, PARTICIPATING IN, MANAGING AND JUDGING OBEDIENCE TRIALS AND COMPETITIONS

### 1. Arranging official obedience trials and competitions

Each national FCI member country decides which clubs and organizations are allowed to arrange official obedience trials and competitions.

### 2. National rules and guidelines concerning obedience trials

It is recommended that the Kennel Clubs publish on their website all necessary information concerning national rules, special national requirements, details of their legislation that applies to animals entering their country and trials, as well as details such as entry fees and bank accounts, so that competing throughout all FCI member nations can be promoted. It is recommended that the handlers entering a competition should be informed of all necessary details concerning the competition and special national requirements in a memo sent to them (data sheet).

### 3. Eligibility to participate in obedience classes

Eligibility to participate in obedience trials is defined by the regulations of the dog's home country and those of the country where the competition takes place. The national rules state which dogs are allowed to compete in obedience trials (Classes 1 & 2 & 3). Eligibility conditions for competing should be published on the website of the country concerned.

The age at which Class 1 can be entered should be stated in the national rules of each country. The dog should, however, be at least 10 months old, if a higher age is not specified by the national rules of the country where the competition is arranged or the country in which the dog is registered. In Class 3 the dog should be at least 15 months old.

It is up to every country to decide which national obedience classes are recognized and what requirements need to be fulfilled before a dog is allowed to compete in a certain class. To participate in an international obedience competition (with CACIOB), however, both the handler and the dog together should at least have passed the previous highest obedience class with a grade excellent and thus have the right to move up (Class 2 or a class with corresponding exercises) in their own country.

It is up to each country to decide how many times a dog may enter a class after having received its initial 1<sup>st</sup> prize (excellent). *This information should be available on the national www-pages.*

If a dog has once entered a certain class level, ***the national rules should describe the circumstances under which moving back down to a lower class is allowed. This information should be available on the national www-pages.***

### 3.1 Health

Dogs that are blind, suffer from contagious diseases or infections or have hookworms, scabies or any other vermin, as well as dogs that are aggressive, may not participate in obedience trials. Dogs that are taped, stitched or bandaged are not allowed to participate.

### 3.2 Antidoping and vaccination regulations

The national vaccination regulations and antidoping regulations applying in the dog's home country and in the country where the trial takes place must be followed in accordance with the regulations applying in the dog's home country and the regulations of the country where the trial takes place. These regulations should be published on the website of the country in which the competition takes place.

### 3.3 Aggressiveness

Aggressive dogs are not allowed to enter the competition premises. The judge will disqualify any dog which attacks or attempts to attack a person or another dog. The incident is noted in the dog's working book and a report must be sent to the kennel club represented by the dog and the kennel club of the arranging country.

### 3.4 Bitches in season and bitches in breeding

Bitches in season are allowed to compete in accordance with the national rules of the country where the trial is held. *This information should be posted on the website of the country which arranges the trial.* Bitches in season must, however, perform last. They must be kept off the competition premises and nearby surroundings until all other dogs have completed their exercises.

A general rule would be that bitches expected to give birth within four weeks and bitches which have given birth less than eight weeks before the competition date must be excluded.

*National rules may state other time limits. This information should be posted on the website of the country that arranges the trial.*

In international obedience competitions (CACIOB) and in WW competitions (World championship) bitches expected to give birth within four weeks and bitches that have given birth within twelve weeks before the competition day are not allowed to compete.

### 3.5 Changes in appearance

Dogs with docked tails or cropped ears or ones that have had some other changes in appearance made for cosmetic reasons, are admitted only in accordance with the legal regulations of the dog's home country and those of the country where the trial is arranged.

*All restrictions due to changes in appearance of the dog should be stated in the national rules and should be posted on the website of the country.*

### 3.6 Spayed or neutered dogs

Spayed and neutered dogs are allowed to compete.

### 3.7 Examining the dogs

If necessary, the judge should check the dogs outside the ring before the start of the competition.

*National rules might require that all dogs have to be checked.*

### 3.8 Other regulations

If an obedience competition is arranged in connection with a dog show, there should be no requirement that the dog be entered in the dog show.

*National regulations should define what specific registration and club membership is required.*

## 4. Eligibility to judge obedience competitions

Judges for obedience competitions should have sufficient training in judging obedience and be licensed to judge by the kennel club of their own country.

**The qualifications and language skills of judges invited from other countries should be confirmed. Usually the inviting Kennel Club contacts the national kennel club of the invited judge to confirm his/her competence.**

**Ineligibility due to the likelihood of bias: National regulations define ineligibility due to the likelihood of bias. At international competitions with CACIOB, the FCI ineligibility rules *must* be followed *as well as the eligibility rules of the organising country, if not otherwise stated.***

## 5. Chief steward

A chief steward must be appointed for the competition. The chief steward is responsible for the practical arrangements of an obedience competition and must have appropriate qualifications. A qualified steward should direct the exercises in Classes 2 and 3. It is also recommended in Class 1. If competitors from abroad enter the competition, it is recommended that a mutual language for directing the exercises is agreed upon beforehand. In Class 3 the steward must be able to conduct the exercises in English or a language mutually agreed upon.

If the exercises are divided and judged by two or more judges, there should be an equal number of stewards. There should be at least one steward per ring.

## 6. Management of the competition

Obedience competitions are under the management of the (chief) judge of the day and the chief steward. If there is more than one judge in a competition, one of the judges is appointed chief judge and chairman of the judging team.

If incidents occur have not been dealt with within these regulations and directions, the judge (or team of judges lead by the chief judge) decides how to proceed or how to evaluate the incident.

## 7. Handler's obligations and dog's equipment.

The handler's obligations as a competitor start when he/she enters the competition premises and end after the final prize-giving ceremony. Handlers must follow the rules and directions as instructed. Handlers are expected to be on their best behaviour and appropriately dressed.

The judge may disqualify a handler from the competition if he or she does not abide by the rules or behaves in an unseemly way. The judge's decision is final and no competitor shall impugn the decisions of the judge.

Handlers should report their arrival at the competition premises/office 30 minutes before the obedience competition begins.

It is forbidden to punish the dog.

Only ordinary collars (buckled or slip collars) are permitted. Barbed or electric collars and other constraining devices or means such as muzzles are forbidden. This restriction begins at the start of the competition and lasts until the end.

***It is mandatory to wear a collar in the group exercises in all classes. It is up to the handler to decide if the dog wears or does not wear a collar in the other exercises. It is recommended that the dogs competing in lower classes should have a collar (Beginner's Class & Class 1).***

**In addition to a collar, it is allowed to wear a collar in all classes for protection against ticks or other arachnids or insects.**

**Wearing of** blankets, mantles, harnesses, raincoats, shoes, stockings, bandages, tapes, etc. on the dog **is** forbidden during the performance.

The handler should have the dog on the left side during and between the exercises. If there is a physical reason or disability, the handler is allowed to have the dog on the right side during or between the exercises. However, the competitor or team leader must discuss this arrangement with the chief judge / judge before the start of the competition. All judges concerned must be informed of the arrangement, and the effect it has on the evaluating of the performances must be agreed on, if there are several judges involved. Any exceptional arrangements should be justified and should not cause disturbance to other dogs and competitors. For example, if a competitor is in a wheelchair, he/she should in group exercises be placed at the end of the line so that no other dog is passed.

## **8. Dog's behaviour / Disqualification**

A dog that at any time during the competition (before, during or after its own performance) bites, tries to bite, attacks or tries to attack people or other dogs, is disqualified from the competition **with immediate effect and will forfeit all the points it has gained during a performance already completed. The dog is also disqualified from taking part in any competition during the second day of a two-day competition.**

**A disqualification is entered** in the dog's working book and a report must be sent to the kennel club which the dog represents and the kennel club of the arranging country.

*In addition to the actions mentioned above, national regulations should be followed.*

## **9. Other regulations**

When the competition ring is being built and after it has been built for the competition, a handler is not allowed to enter the competition ring together with his dog or without his dog unless an authorized person (the chief judge) has given permission.

In the group exercises (Exercise 1) of Classes 1 and 2, the minimum number of dogs in a group is three and the maximum number is six. In a competition where the number of dogs is not divisible by six, the judge can arrange two groups of seven dogs. In Class 3 the minimum number of dogs in the group exercises (Exercises 1 & 2) is three and maximum four, with the exception of there only being five dogs altogether in Class 3.

## II PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

Layout, number of competitors, size of the ring and equipment needed

### 10. Layout of the competition

The judge (chief judge, referee judge, chairman of the judging team) has the right, having consulted the organizing committee, to decide in which order the exercises will be done during the competition and how the exercises are grouped together. The order should be the same for all competitors.

### 11. Time allocated for judging per day and number of competitors

The competition should be so planned that the judging appointment does not take more than approximately **six** hours per day.

*National guidelines of the country where the competition is arranged should be followed.*

It should be noted that the time needed to judge a particular number of dogs depends on the layout of a competition, the steward, the judge and the breeds that have been entered.

Approximations of judging times:

Class 1

It is recommended that a judge does not judge more than approximately 30 dogs per day in Class 1. Judging 6 dogs takes **more or less** an hour.

Classes 2 and 3

It is recommended that a judge does not judge more than **25 dogs per day** in Classes 2 and 3.

It is estimated that **judging 4 dogs in Class 2** takes approximately one hour.

**Judging 7 dogs in Class 3** takes approximately two hours.

If more than one judge is appointed, each **one** judges the exercises **allocated** to him for all dogs entering **the class**. In this case the number of dogs can **thus** be more.

## 12. Size of the obedience ring and quantities of the exercises

The size of the obedience ring for an indoor competition should be at least 20 m x 30 m in Classes 2 and 3. When the competition is outdoors, the preferred ring size is at least 25 m x 40 m. In Class 1 the ring can be slightly smaller. The ring can also be smaller if the exercises are divided among two or more rings and those exercises requiring less space are grouped together. The ring should be clearly marked. It is up to the judge to decide whether the ring size is acceptable or not. All numerical values of the quantities in the exercises are approximations.

## 13. Equipment

It is the responsibility of the organizing committee to keep the following equipment as well as the rules and guidelines and other necessary instructions relating to them available on the competition premises.

Hurdles:

- A boarded hurdle/closed hurdle approximately 1 m wide and adjustable in height from about 10 cm to 60 cm at intervals of **not more than 10 cm** is required.

The side bars (**perpendicular to the boards / bar**) should be approximately 1 m **wide**. In contrast to an agility fence the hurdle should not have side wings. **A hurdle like this is needed in Classes 1 & 2 & 3.**

- An open hurdle approximately 1 m wide and adjustable in height from approximately **10 cm to 60 cm**.

The side bars should be approximately 1 m high. The hurdle should be constructed so that it is open i.e. there is only one board of approximately 3-5 cm high or a round bar of approximately 3-5 cm in diameter at the required height and a thin support bar connecting the feet/sidebars at the bottom. There should be supports only for the bar and the supports should be placed so that the dog can drop the bar regardless of the direction from which the dog is jumping. The supports should be slightly concave (spoonlike) so that the wind does not drop it. The hurdle should not have side wings. **An open hurdle is needed for Classes 2 & 3.** in addition to the **boarded/closed hurdle** described above.

**See figures and description of the hurdles in the Appendix 1.**

## Suitable retrieve objects:

- Three series of wooden dumbbells.

For Class 3, each series includes three **wooden** dumbbells of equal size.

For Class 2, each series includes two **wooden** dumbbells.

**For Class 1 one **wooden** dumbbell of each size *should be available. The handler may use his/her own wooden dumbbell, if the judge approves it.***

Each series differs in size and weight, so as to suite different-sized breeds i.e. small, middle and large breeds. The weight of the largest should not be more than approximately 450 g. The handler can choose whatever size he/she prefers, however.

- Wooden objects approx. 2 cm x 2 cm x 10 cm are needed **for scent discrimination** in Classes 2 and 3.

In Class 2, the number of objects is six times the number of competing dogs.

In Class 3, the number of objects is eight times the number of competing dogs.

## Other equipment:

- Charts by which the points awarded are shown should be available.
- Charts on which the positions of the distance control are written or drawn or an electrical display board.
- Chalk, spray paint, tape strands or equivalent means that can be used for marking e.g. the squares and circles as well as starting points/ending points.
- A sufficient number of markers and cones must be available to indicate for example the starting and ending points of the exercises, when necessary, and the places of performance such as turning sites, etc.

The markers and cones should be appropriate and suitable. In choosing their size, visibility and colour, their function should be considered i.e. are they meant for the dog, for the handler or the judge and/or steward. For example the cones for the corners of the squares should be approx. 15 cm and visible.

***Several approximately 40-50 cm high cones (3 – 6) or a barrel of corresponding height and a diameter of 70-80 cm are needed in all classes (for exercises 1.8, 2.9 and 3.8). The area of the cones or the barrel should cover 0,4-0,5 m<sup>2</sup>. The layout (depth X width) of the cones should be 70-80 cm X 70-80 cm See description in corresponding exercises and Appendix 4. In championship competitions cones are always used.***

### III AWARDS, MOVING UP AND MOVING DOWN

#### 14. Classes 1 & 2 & 3

1 <sup>st</sup> prize	256 – 320 points	80 % Excellent
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	224 – under 256 points	70 % Very good
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	192 – under 224 points	60 % Good

A dog that has achieved excellent (1<sup>st</sup> prize) in a class, in any country applying these rules and guidelines, is allowed to move up to the next class.

***A dog should not move up to the next class with less of a result than 1 x excellent.***

A dog is allowed to compete in a class until it has achieved 3 x excellent / country.

***It is up to the national rules to state how many starts are allowed in a class after the dog's third?? excellent or for how long a time the dog is allowed to compete after the dog's third excellent, before it is required to move up to the next class.***

***It is recommended that a medal, emblem, trophy or diploma is awarded after 3 x excellent in a class.***

***It is up to national rules to decide under what circumstances a dog may move down to compete in a lower class.***

***Information about staying in a class, moving up and moving down must be stated in the national rules and this information should be available on the national www-pages.***

***If there is no mention in the national rules it is assumed that a dog moves up after 3 X excellent and is not allowed to move down.***

The colours of the obedience ribbons and rosettes have traditionally been black - red - yellow.

If two or more dogs end up with the same number of points and if it is desirable to have a final line-up, the results ***of the following exercises*** should be added together:

***Class 1: 1.2 (heelwork) & 1.4 (recall) & 1.5 (send away) and 1.11 (general impression)***

***Class 2: 2.2 (heelwork) & 2.4 (recall) & 2.5 (send away) and 2.10 (general impression)***

***Class 3: 3.3 (heelwork only), 3.5 recall and 3.6 (send away).***

***These above mentioned three exercises should be repeated in the cases of dogs which have gained the same total number of points.***

***In Classes 1 & 2, if the addition of points gives the same result, the higher general impression decides the order, if not, the exercises mentioned above are repeated. The new results, however, are not to be registered as a result for this competition nor entered in the dog's result booklet as the official result of the competition.***

## **15. Obedience Champion and International Obedience Certificate CACIOB**

### **15.1 National Obedience Champion**

***It is recommended that a dog gets the title Obedience Champion (of its nation) when it has received 3 x excellent in the highest class, Class 3. The 1<sup>st</sup> prize (excellent) has to be awarded by at least two different judges. Note: This does not imply that the dog has to win the competition. 1<sup>st</sup> prize means that the result is at least 260 points, i.e. "excellent".***

***It is recommended that a dog, that is an Obedience Champion of its own nation can receive the title of Obedience Champion of another country once it is an Obedience Champion of its own country and has received one excellent from another country, the country concerned.***

### **15.2 International Obedience Certificate (CACIOB)**

The winning dog (with two testicles if a male) is awarded the CACIOB if it earns **the first prize/excellent**, and the second best dog (with similar restriction) is awarded the reserve CACIOB **if the result is first prize/excellent**. For these awards to be confirmed by the FCI, the dogs have to be registered in the studbook (vs appendix to the studbook) of an FCI member or contract partner

A prize or a rosette is to be given to the dog which is awarded the CACIOB and the one awarded reserve CACIOB. Preferably, the colours should display the colours of obedience (black – red - yellow) and include the colours indicating CACIOB (white) and reserve CACIOB (orange) [e.g., a basic rosette and stripes being white (orange) and the smaller rosettes on top being black – red – yellow colour]. The text CACIOB and reserve CACIOB should also be displayed.

## IV CLASSES, EXERCISES AND COEFFICIENTS

It is recommended that national obedience programmes include a novice/beginners' class which the dogs should pass before entering Class 1.

CLASS 1	Exercise	Coeff.
1.	Sitting in a group for 1 minute, handlers in sight	3
2.	Heelwork	4
3.	Stand <i>or sit or down</i> under march	3
4.	Recall	4
5.	Send away into a square and lying down	4
6.	Distance control	4
7.	Retrieve and jumping over a hurdle	4
8.	Send <i>round a group of cones/barrel</i> and return	4
9.	General impression	2
	$\Sigma$	32

CLASS 2	Exercise	Coeff.
1.	Lying in a group for 2 minutes, handlers out of sight	3
2.	Heelwork	4
3.	Stand / sit / down under march (two of these three positions)	3
4.	Recall with stand	3
5.	Send away with down and recall	4
6.	Directed retrieve	3
7.	Scent discrimination and retrieve	3
8.	Distance control	4
9.	<i>Send round a group of cones/barrel, stop and jump</i>	3
10.	General impression	2
	$\Sigma$	32

<b>CLASS 3</b>	<b>Exercise</b>	<b>Coeff.</b>
	The rules and guidelines of Class 3 should be applied at International obedience competitions where a CACIOB and reserve CACIOB can be awarded as well as World and Section Winner competitions. These rules are effective from <b>1.1.2021.</b>	
<b>1.</b>	Sitting in a group for 2 minutes, handlers out of sight	<b>2</b>
<b>2.</b>	Lying in a group for 1 minute, and recall	<b>2</b>
<b>3.</b>	Heelwork	<b>4</b>
<b>4.</b>	Stand, sit and down under march	<b>3</b>
<b>5.</b>	Recall with stand /sit / down	<b>3</b>
<b>6.</b>	Send away with directions, down and recall	<b>4</b>
<b>7.</b>	Directed retrieve	<b>3</b>
<b>8.</b>	Send round <b>a group of cones, stop (stand/sit/down), retrieve and jump</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>9.</b>	Scent discrimination and retrieve	<b>3</b>
<b>10.</b>	Distance control	<b>4</b>
	<b>Σ</b>	<b>32</b>

## V GENERAL RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR PERFORMING AND JUDGING THE EXERCISES

The regulations and guidelines for performing and judging the exercises comprise of

- A) A general part which concerns performing and judging all exercises in Class 1 and 2 and 3.
- B) A part which describes the performing and judging of the individual exercises.

If not otherwise stated in the individual exercises, these general regulations and directions for performing and judging the exercises are applied to all exercises.

If incidents occur that are not covered in these regulations and guidelines, the judge decides how to proceed or how to evaluate. The judge's decision is final and no competitor shall impugn the decisions of the judge.

### **Points awarded**

The obedience performances are graded as follows:

0 – 5 – 5½ – 6 – 6½ – 7 – 7½ – 8 – 8½ – 9 – 9½ – 10.

Disqualification leads to termination of the performance and loss of all points awarded. The dog may not continue with the remaining exercises of the competition.

Failing an exercise leads to loss of all points in the specific exercise. The dog may continue with the remaining exercises.

### **The use of yellow and red cards**

In Class 3 yellow and red cards are used.

The yellow card indicates a warning. The judge can give a warning on the basis of the handler's or dog's actions.

If the judge shows the yellow card 10 points are reduced from the final score. If the judge shows a yellow card twice disqualification follows.

The red card indicates disqualification.

### **The use of red/yellow cards in competitions with several judges:**

1) Two or more judges in separate rings

- When two judges are judging separately (two rings, different exercises), one red card (the first) leads to disqualification.
- If one of the judges has shown a yellow card e.g. in the first ring, the other judges (second or third judge) should not be informed of this. All judges work independently. The issuing of the yellow card is recorded and if a yellow card is shown by a latter judge (second or third) the secretary records it and then informs the judge that one yellow card has been

issued earlier and disqualification will thus follow. Naturally two yellow cards given by the same judge leads to disqualification as well.

## 2) Two or more judges in the same ring

If one of the judges wants to warn (yellow card) or disqualify (red card) a competitor, he/she informs the other(s) and the matter will be decided on together. Preferably the chief judge (chairman of the judging team) will show the card, if he/she is in the ring.

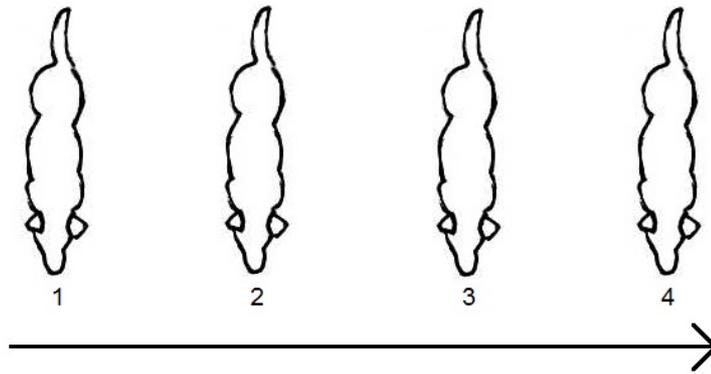
## 16 General guidelines for performing and judging all exercises

These guidelines are followed in all exercises if not otherwise stated in the descriptions of the exercises.

### 16.1 Performing the exercises

1. National rules can state that all dogs must be checked before they are allowed to enter the ring and national rules might also state that the judge should be allowed to handle/touch the dogs.
2. The judge can choose the order in which the exercises are performed. The order should be the same for all competitors. **The handler is allowed skip one or several exercises. The handler should inform the steward and judge which exercises he/she will omit no later before the start of the exercise concerned. National rules can demand to participate in the group exercises. This must be separately stated.**
3. The exercises begin and end with the dog in heel position. The heel position is defined as the sitting position at the handler's left side.
4. The handler walks at normal pace in all exercises except for heelwork. The heelwork can also include a fast and slow pace depending on the class.
5. All exercises begin when the steward has directed the handler and dog to the starting place and the dog sits in starting position and the steward has announced "Exercise starts" or "Exercise begins".
6. The handler should command his/her dog to heel position at the starting point and be ready to start the exercise within a very short time. In Class 1 the tolerance can be slightly more than in Classes 2 and 3 in which the handlers should be prepared to have their dogs in heel position and start the exercise very shortly after having reached the starting point.
7. All exercises are over when the steward has announced "Exercise ended" or "Thank you".
8. In all exercises, if not otherwise stated in the exercises, the steward gives the permission to the handler to command the dog in all phases of the exercise, even if it is not systematically written down in all exercises.
9. It is up to the handler to decide whether or not to give a second command and when to give it.

- 10.** The steward's commands mentioned in these regulations are just examples. **It is important that the commands are distinct and clear to both handlers and judges. This means both meaning and volume. Excess volume is, however, not recommended.**
11. It is not allowed to point out or show places and directions to the dog before, at the starting point or during exercises (other than those relating to the ongoing exercise, if such are allowed). Such activity will lead to failing of the exercise.
12. In Class 1 the handler may enter the ring with the dog on leash. During the whole performance the handler must keep the leash invisible to the dog. The handler may also leave it at the steward's table or outside the ring. He/she may put the leash on the dog after the performance when he/she leaves the ring. **The dog must wear a collar during the group exercises. It is recommended for a dog to wear a collar also during the exercises. In addition, a collar for prevention of ticks and other insects is allowed.**
- 13.** In Classes 2 and 3 the handler must leave the dog's leash outside the ring or at the steward's table. This applies to all exercises. The dog must wear a collar during all group exercises. **It is up to the handler to decide if the dog wears a collar or not during the other exercises. In addition, a collar for prevention of ticks and other insects is allowed.**
14. The dog should be on the handler's left side between the exercises. The dog does not have to be in heel position and under command, but it should be beside the handler and under control. If for some reason or other there is a delay when moving from one exercise to the next, giving the dog the down command is allowed/permitted, but it should not be recalled from the down position (or any position) to continue with the exercises.
15. The handler should move in a normal way using straight paths. Indefinite or ambiguous movement, exaggerated gestures, signals or body language and unnatural movement of the extremities are penalised. Turns and turnabouts should be 90° and 180° and after turnabouts the handler should return using his original path.
16. In exercises where the dog is passed, the distance between the dog and the handler should be approximately 0,5 m. The handler may pass the dog from either side, if not otherwise stated in the exercise.
17. The directions right and left (e.g. in directed retrieve) are defined from the handler's viewpoint, i.e. the handler looking to his/her righthand side or lefthand side when directing the dog from the starting point.  
In the group exercises, however, the direction is from left to right when facing the dogs in front of the lineup. 1 = left ..... 4 = right.



18. The handler is not allowed to touch the dog or stroke it or give other forms of encouragement during the exercises. Such behaviour will result in failing of the exercise. Slight encouragement (e.g., saying "well done - well done" or giving a few gentle pats) is allowed after the exercise has been completed.
19. Titbits or toys, such as balls or other toys are not allowed in the ring, neither during nor between exercises. If the judge observes that a competitor has or uses titbits or toys in the ring, he or she will be disqualified.
- 20.** In directing exercises the handler is not allowed to show directions or touch the dog at the starting point, even before the exercise. This will fail the exercise. **The "handtouch" is, however, allowed once at the starting point, before the start. It has to be quick, may not give the impression of showing directions and it must be the dog touching the handler's palm not the handler touching the dog.**
21. In the case of excessive encouragement, playing or fooling around, jumping into the arms of the handler, weaving around the handler's legs, etc., the judge will warn the competitor and
  - in Classes 1 & 2 the judge will note this behaviour in the general impression as part of his/her general impression of the performance
  - in Class 3 the judge will show the yellow card.
  - in all classes a second incident will disqualify the dog.
22. The judge has the right to stop an exercise if the dog shows obvious incapability or unwillingness to perform it. Such an exercise is failed.
23. The judge has the right to bar a dog from further participation in the competition if it is not functioning properly or if it is causing disturbance by continuous barking or whining.
24. Barking and whining during an exercise also influences the received points.
25. In case of barking or whining both during and between exercises, the judge can give a first warning and
  - in Classes 1 & 2 note this behaviour in the general impression
  - in Class 3 show the yellow card.

If the **before mentioned** behaviour continues, the judge will disqualify the dog.

26. The height of all jumps should not be more than approximately the height of the withers of the dog and thus the height of the hurdles should be raised or lowered correspondingly.

## Heelwork:

27. The heelwork in all classes is performed without a leash.

**All dogs in one trial /competition and class should do the heelwork according to the same scheme.**

28. The unleashed dog should follow the handler willingly, walking on the handler's left side, with its shoulder level with the handler's left knee and following the handler in a parallel line. The handler should move his arms and feet in a natural way during the exercises. **The distance between dog and handler should be distinct. The distance depends to some extent on the size of the dog. The dog should not lean on the handler, touch the handler or disturb the handler or vice versa. These are severe mistakes.**

**The dog walking** in an unnatural position i.e. **looking** up at the handler so that the angle between the neck and spine is 90° or even less (looks straight up in an exaggerating way), should result in a severe drop in points. This could even lead to a zero, if there are other mistakes involved. The dog looking sideways (in an unnatural, exaggerated way) is an equally **serious** mistake.

**Thus the movement in heelwork must take place in a natural way.** This does not mean that looking at the handler and keeping "eye contact" is wrong. It is the exaggeration and the dog walking in an unnatural position which are the mistakes.

29. In the heelwork exercises the handler can choose to do the turnabouts (180° turn) to the left or to the right. The "German turnabout" is equally acceptable (the dog is allowed to circle around the handler very tightly on the right side. The handler should when making a turnabout return approximately along the same line that he/she came.

30. Turns to the left and right during the heelwork should be at right angles (90°). The handler should not turn his head, should not twist his shoulders or use any other body language or give signals with his feet.

31. The "Heel" command may be given at every start, when changing speed and when taking steps in different directions and at turns and turnabouts from a standing position.

32. When the handler stops, the dog should take the heel position immediately and without a command.

33. Walking backwards longer distances in Classes 2 & 3 should start from a heel position (a stop) and end in a heel position.

## Commands and hand signals:

34. The commanding words given in these guidelines are recommendations. Other sufficiently short words are acceptable as commands.

35. The "Heel" command may be given at every start and the command "Stay" is allowed in exercises in which the handler leaves the dog or turns away from the dog.

**36. Voice commands must be used in all exercises and they must be distinct. The judge must have a possibility to hear clearly the commands given to dog. Excess volume, however, is not an asset and may drop points. In some exercises hand signals may be used in**

**addition to a vocal command, but the hand signal must be given simultaneously with the voice command. If a hand signal is allowed, it will be stated in the exercise.** When using hand signals, they **must** be short and not outlast a **vocal** command and not include any other body language. One hand or two hands may be used **in the recall exercises on the stops, and in the distance control exercises. Only one hand is allowed to be used when directing the dog.**

37. The concept body language means moving your body (not necessarily taking steps), twisting or turning your body, turning your head or shrugging your shoulders, as well as giving signals with your feet or hands. This reduces points according to gravity and situation.
38. Taking steps when commanding (in situations where the handler should stand still) will fail the exercise.
39. Hand signals are never allowed when the dog is beside the handler in heel position. This will result in a heavy reduction of points, the reduction being 2-4 points depending on strength, situation and duration. If body language is included the reduction is always even more.
40. In exercises where the dog is directed or needs to be redirected, hands signals are allowed simultaneously with a vocal command when the dog is at a distance. Such exercises or parts of exercises are: running around the cone, directing into a circle and into a square and directing to retrieve the correct dumbbell. Reducing points for a simultaneous hand signal should not be done, only for the extra commands or redirecting commands.

#### **Recall and retrieving exercises:**

41. The dog's name may be connected with the command in all the recall exercises / all recall situations. The name and the command have to be tied closely together so that the name and command do not give an impression of two separate commands. It is also allowed merely to use the dog's name.
42. In the recall and retrieving exercises the dog is allowed either to come directly to the heel position or to come and sit in front of the handler first. If sitting in front of the handler, the dog must, on command (after permission from the steward), quickly take its heel position, passing the handler very closely. This applies also in the case of jumping the hurdle.
43. In the recall and retrieving exercises, the judge does not need to know whether the dog was intended to take the heel position directly or after sitting in front. If the exercise is elegantly performed, full points can be awarded regardless of what was intended.
44. If a dumbbell is thrown unintentionally to an unsatisfactory place (bumps outside the ring or to a place where it can't be reached, or too short a distance), it must be thrown again. This however results in a reduction of 2 points. If the second throw is not successful the exercise is failed.

45. It is not allowed to let the dog take hold of the object / dumbbell before the exercises. If this occurs, not more than 5 points can be awarded in Class 1 and in Classes 2 & 3 the exercise is failed.

46. The handler is free to choose the size of the dumbbells they will work with. **The judge checks the handler's dumbbell in Class 1.**

## 16.2 Judging the exercises

47. Judging of an exercise starts when the handler has taken his position at the starting point with the dog being in the heel position, and the stewards says "Exercise starts". Judging of an exercise ends when the steward has announced "End of exercise" or "Thank you".

48. All deviations from the ideal should reduce points: all extra commands, double commands, body language, deviations at heel position and deviations from parallel movement, etc.

**Body language drops 1-5 points depending on strength, duration and frequency.**

**For strong body language (long duration, clear and strong, hinder with hand, 4-5 points are dropped. For small, but clear hand signals, clear tilting of head, 2-3 points are dropped.**

**For a very short look at the dog, a light almost unnoticeable hand signal or a slight shrug of shoulder 1-2 points are dropped.**

**In Class 1, the drop for body language may be a bit more lenient, but points must be dropped for deviations such as body language.**

49. It is important that the dog is happy and willing to obey the commands.

50. In judging speed and tempo, the breed should be taken into consideration. The ideal for all breeds is not the same. When a dog reacts to the commands instantly and willingly, moves typically of his breed, keeps his pace and shows an interest in what it is doing, the dog should be awarded full points, if there are no lowering mistakes.

**In obeying commands, e.g. stop commands, the distance that the dog moves after the command is evaluated. "There is more tolerance for fast dogs than slow dogs" does not mean that the distance may be longer for fast dogs than that mentioned in the exercises. It means that a slow dog can stop at once on command. Confronting steps is a big mistake. Also, if the dog slides forward after command, the distance is evaluated as if it were taking steps.**

51. **In Class 1** a general rule is that for a second command **1 point is deducted**. A third command fails the exercise or part of it.

52. **In Classes 2 & 3** a general rule is that **2 points are reduced for a second command and a third command fails the exercise or part of it** e.g. sitting at the end of an exercise, a position of **the distance control exercises**, or a position of the exercises 2.3 and 3.4. In

exercises with directing commands and distance control commands, 1-2 points are reduced for a second command. See the directions of these exercises.

53. **Any** punishment of the dog leads to disqualification.
54. If the handler touches the dog during the exercise, the exercise is failed (0 points). This may lead to a warning.
55. If touching the dog during or between exercises can be interpreted as a punishment, the handler and the dog are disqualified.
56. If the dog does not take the heel position or starting position of an exercise (i.e. sit or down), the exercise is failed (0 points).
57. If a dog does not take its heel position (sit) at the end of an exercise
  - **in Class 1, no more than 8 can be awarded**
  - **in Class 2 & 3, no more than 7 can be awarded.**
58. If the dog does not sit calmly beside the handler at the start of an exercise, no more than 8 points can be awarded.
59. If the handler takes steps when giving commands, the exercise is failed (0 points).
60. If a dog touches the handler (slightly, lightly) in the recall or retrieving exercises when sitting in front of the handler or coming to heel position / moving to the side of the handler, 1-2 points should be reduced. If it bumps into / collides with the handler, no more than 7 points should be awarded.
61. Barking, even occasionally, or whining during an exercise reduces points. No more than 7 should be awarded in the case of barking, and if the dog barks a lot or continuously, the exercise is failed (0 points). Even if there is only one very short bark at the beginning (or end) of the exercise, maybe expressing enthusiasm, at least 1 point should be reduced. If the barking is continuous and is repeated in several exercises, the performance is disqualified. The same holds for whining.
62. Controlling the dog by the collar between exercises leads to a warning and to a reduction of points in the assessment of the general impression and in Class 3 it leads to a yellow card.
63. If the dog relieves itself in the ring:
  - in Class 1 during an exercise, the exercise is failed (0 points) and the general impression is failed (0 points).
  - in Class 1 in-between the exercises, the general impression is failed (0 points).
  - in Classes 2 & 3 during or in-between exercises, the dog is disqualified.

#### **Anticipating the command or starting the exercise too early**

64. If a dog anticipates the command (i.e. does not keep the heel position properly: jerks, stands up, but does not take steps forward) when starting the exercise, no more than 8 points can be awarded.

65. In Class 1, (in exercises where the dog is sent away from the handler) if the dog leaves the handler (starts the exercise) after the exercise has started but before the command of the handler (for example on the steward's command), the handler may call the dog once. If it returns and completes the exercise, max 6 points can be awarded. If it does not return, but continues with the exercise, the exercise is failed (0 points).
66. In Classes 2 & 3 if the dog starts the exercise (leaves the handler) before the handler's command (for example on the steward's command), there is no possibility for recall and the exercise is failed (0 points).

## **Leaving the ring or leaving the handler**

### **Leaving the ring**

67. In Classes 2 & 3, if a dog leaves the ring during or between the exercises being out of control, it is disqualified.
68. In Class 1, if the dog leaves the ring during or between the exercises being out of control, the handler is allowed to call the dog twice. If it returns, they may continue with the competition, but not more than 5 points may be awarded for the general impression. The exercise concerned is failed (0 points). If the dog leaves the ring for a second time, disqualification follows.

**69. If the dog leaves the ring during the group exercise and goes to the handler who is outside the ring, this will not lead to disqualification from the competition, a yellow or red card, if the dog is under control.**

### **Leaving the handler without leaving the ring**

70. In Classes 2&3, if the dog leaves the handler during an exercise (interrupts the exercise) or between exercises and is out of control, but does not leave the ring, the handler may call the dog (once) without leaving his/her position. If the dog returns to the handler, the exercise concerned is failed (0 points), but the dog and handler can continue with the next exercise.

In Class 2 this causes a severe drop of points in the general impression, no more than 5 points may be awarded.

In Class 3 this leads to a warning. The judge will show a yellow card.

If the dog does not return, or if the dog leaves a second time, disqualification follows (both Classes 2 & 3). In Class 3 the judge will show a red card.

71. In Class 1 if the dog leaves the handler during an exercise or between exercises and is out of control, the handler may call the dog twice without leaving his position. If the dog returns to the handler, they may continue with the competition, but this will be noted in the general impression and cause a severe reduction of points, no more than 7 may be

awarded. The exercise concerned is failed (0 points). If the dog leaves the handler a second time, disqualification follows.

### **Retrieving exercises**

#### **72. Dropping the dumbbell/object:**

If the dog drops the dumbbell/object, but picks it up on its own initiative, no more than 7 points can be awarded. If an extra “retrieve” command has to be given before the dog picks up the dropped dumbbell/object, the maximum is 5 points. If the dog drops the object beside the handler and the handler picks it up without taking a step, 5 points can be awarded presuming the dog takes the heel position correctly. If the object is dropped, due to the handler’s carelessness after the release command, no more than 7 points can be awarded.

#### **73. Chewing or biting on the dumbbell/object**

Chewing or biting on the dumbbell/object are serious mistakes and are penalised by a reduction of 2-3 points. If chewing is extensive, not more than 5 points can be awarded. Very extensive chewing or breaking the dumbbell/object results in failing the exercise (0 points). No penalty should be given, however, if the dog once takes a better grip on the dumbbell/object.

***Not releasing the dumbbell on command to the handler, but keeping a tight hold of it after command, is a serious mistake and will drop points accordingly.***

### **General Impression**

***74. In competitions (in Classes 1 & 2) where the exercises of a class are divided to several rings so that two or more judges are judging the class, e.g. one judge has some of the exercises and the other judge has the rest of the exercises, all judges give their own points on general impression on the basis of the dog’s work in their ring, and the final points for the general impression are calculated as an average of the points given by each judge. If, however, the guidelines say in connection with certain mistakes that no more than 7 may be awarded or no more 5 may be awarded or that the general impression is 0 if the dog ...., the final points for the general impression cannot be higher, even if the other judges would have awarded higher points. The final points can be lower, if the other judges have awarded lower points.***

## VI GENERAL RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR PERFORMING AND JUDGING THE INDIVIDUAL EXERCISES

### CLASS 1

#### EXERCISE 1.1 Sitting in a group for 1 minute, handlers in sight [Coeff. 3]

**Commands:** "Sit", "Stay"

**Performance:**

The exercise starts when all handlers of the group stand in a row at approximately 3 metres' distance from each other with their dogs in heel position and the steward announces "Exercise starts". The exercise ends when the handlers have returned to their dogs and the steward has announced "Exercise over".

The handlers leave their dogs and walk approximately **15 metres** to the ringside and turn to face their dogs. When 1 minute has elapsed, they walk back towards their dogs, pass their dogs at a distance of approximately 0,5 m, take a standing position approx. 3 metres behind their dogs after which the handlers are instructed to walk up beside their dogs.

There should be at least three dogs in a group, but no more than six.

**Directions for judging:**

A dog that fails to sit (two commands), stands up, lies down or moves more than its own body length gets 0 points. All moving reduces points. If the dog barks 1-2 times, 1-2 points are withdrawn; if it barks most of the time, the exercise is failed (0 points). Restlessness, such as shifting weight from one side or one foot to another, reduces points. The dog is allowed to turn its head and look around, and it is allowed to show interest if there is a distraction or a noise inside or outside the ring. This, however, should not give an appearance of restlessness or anxiety. If the dog lies down or stands up after the one-minute period is over and the handlers are moving towards their dogs, no more than 5 points can be awarded. If a dog stands up and goes close to another dog, so that there is fear for severe disturbance or a fight, the exercise must be stopped and then resumed for all the dogs except for the dog that caused the disturbance.

**EXERCISE 1.2****Heelwork****[Coeff. 4]****Command:** "Heel"**Performance:**

Heelwork is tested at normal pace in conjunction with turns to the left and to the right, turnabouts and halts. Heelwork is also tested in fast pace, but only right turns should be included. The dog must also be tested when the handler moves two or three steps forwards and backwards. **Time recommendation for heelwork: not more than approximately 1 min. Take into consideration that some breeds/handlers take more/less time when walking the pattern.**

*The general directions describe heelwork in more detail.*

**Directions for judging:** A dog that leaves the handler or follows the handler at a distance of more than half a metre during a major part of the exercise, fails the exercise. If the dog moves slowly, only 6-7 points should be given. Lack of contact and extra commands are mistakes. An imperfect direction (not parallel) of the heel position should result in loss of about 2 points. Slowing down and stopping before, during or after turns will reduce points. The distance between dog and handler should be distinct. Points should be reduced if a dog walks very near the handler, more so if it disturbs or hinders the handler and, even more points should be dropped if the dog leans and touches the handler.

**EXERCISE 1.3****Position under march****[Coeff. 3]****Commands:** "Heel", "Stand / **Sit / Down**", "Sit"**Performance:**

Handler and dog leave the starting point walking in a straight line at a normal pace. After approximately 10 metres the handler commands the dog, without stopping, on the steward's permission, to stand/sit/down and the dog must take the correct position immediately. The handler walks approximately 10 metres (place indicated e.g. by a marker or cone), turns around (independently) and stands facing the dog. After approximately three seconds, on the steward's permission, the handler returns towards the dog along a parallel path that he/she left, passing the dog at a distance of approximately 0,5 metre, leaving the dog on her/his left side, turns around when he/she has passed the dog (1-2 m) and returns beside the dog and commands the dog to heel position. All phases of the exercise, except turning around at the marker/cone, are done on the steward's permission.

**Directions for judging:**

If the dog stops in a wrong position, changes a correct position before the handler has turned around, stands before the command, needs an extra command or if the handler stops before / when commanding the dog, the main principle is that the exercise is failed. If, however, the stop is immediate and perfect, but the position is wrong, 6 points can be awarded assuming the exercise is perfect in all other aspects.

To get any points the dog should not move more than one body length after the command.

The exercise is also failed, if the dog walks to meet the handler or follows the handler when he/she passes the dog and the moved distance is more than one body length. No more than 5 points can be awarded if the distance is one body length.

If the dog changes a correct position after the handler has turned around at the cone/marker, no more than 7 points should be awarded. If the handler changes pace / slows down / speeds up before his command, no more than 7 points can be awarded. Hand signals and body language on the stand command are grave mistakes, and will result in a severe drop of points, depending on their strength and duration the reduction should be 3-5 points.

In judging, attention should be paid to the heelwork as well. For bad heelwork the reduction should be 1-2 points. Moving and stopping slowly or not stopping in a straight position are mistakes. The reduction should be 1-4 points. If the handler passes the dog from the wrong side, 1 point should be reduced.

**EXERCISE 1.4**

**Recall**

**[Coeff. 4]**

**Commands:** “Down” (“Stay”) “Come” (“Heel”)

**Performance:**

The handler commands the dog down (on steward’s permission) and starts walking (on steward’s permission) 20 – 25 m in the indicated direction to the indicated place and turns around (independently). On permission from the steward, the handler recalls the dog. The dog’s name may be combined with the recall command, but name and command must be well combined together and may not give the impression of two separate commands.

**Directions for judging:**

It is important that the dog responds willingly to the recall command. The dog should move at good speed and keep its pace, at least a fast trot. A reluctant approach is a mistake. The breed should be taken into consideration in judging the speed. If more than one recall command is given, no more than 8 points should be awarded. A third recall fails the exercise. If the dog moves more than one body length before the recall command, the exercise is failed. If the dog stands or sits up or moves less than one body length before being recalled, no more than 8 points can be awarded.

## EXERCISE 1.5

## Send away to a square with down

[Coeff. 4]

**Commands:** “Forward”, [“Right/left” and hand signal], (“Stand”),  
“Down”, “Sit”

### Performance:

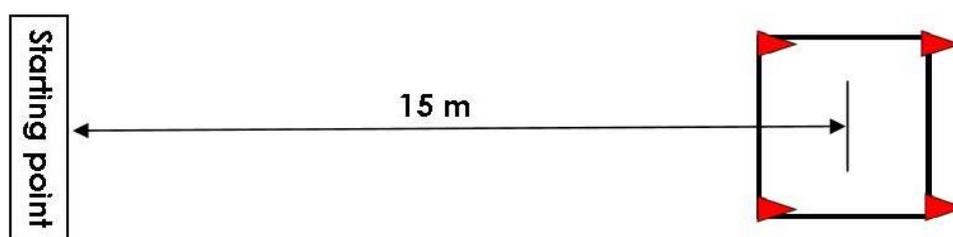
Before starting the exercise, the handler should inform the judge whether he/she will command the dog first to stand and then to lie down in the square, or to lie down directly in the square.

When the steward gives permission, the handler directs the dog into a square of 3 m x 3 m which is located approximately 15 metres from the starting point. The dog should move in a straight line to the square and should enter the square from the front.

When the dog reaches the square, the handler commands the dog either to stand and then to lie down, or directly to lie down. If the dog is commanded to stand, the stand position should be clear and stable, before the down command is given. When told, the handler walks up beside the dog and commands (after permission from the steward) it in heel position.

The handler should not use more than four commands during this exercise, the fourth command being a stand command in the square. Alternatively the handler can command the dog directly to lie down and thus use only three commands. If the dog has to be redirected, hand signals may be combined to the directing command.

The size of the square is 3 m X 3 m. The distance between the middle of the square and the starting point, is approximately 15 metres. Cones (approx. 10 - 15 cm high) mark the square at each corner. Visible lines (e.g. tape, chalk lines, bands) should connect the cones on their outer side. There should be at least an approx. 3-5 metres’ distance from the borders of the square to the nearest ring borders. See figure e.g. 6 of Class 1.



### Directions for judging:

The dog’s willingness to follow the commands, the dog’s tempo and a straight route should be emphasised. To get 10 points, the handler should not use more than four commands during this exercise, the fourth command being the stand command in the square. Alternatively the handler can command the dog directly to lie down and thus use only three commands.

If the handler moves (takes steps in any direction) while giving the commands, the exercise is failed (0 points). If there is excess action (body language), no more than 8 points should be given. If the dog moves very slowly, only about 7 points should be given. If the dog acts on his own, points are reduced (i.e. if the dog stops or lies down without a command).

To get points, the dog's whole body, except for the tail, must be inside the square. If the dog sits or lies down outside the square, it cannot be redirected and the exercise has failed.

The exercise is failed (0 points) if the dog moves out of the square before the end of the exercise. If the dog creeps inside the square, no more than 7 points can be awarded. If the dog changes position before the handler has reached it, no more than 6 points can be awarded.

If the dog takes the wrong position in the square, 3 points are deducted, and if the standing position is not clear and stable, 2 points are deducted. The exercise is failed (0 points), if one of the stand or down commands has to be given a third time. For the second stand and down command the reduction is 1 point. The reduction of points for extra directing/redirecting commands is 1 point. No more than 8 points can be awarded, if the dog rises to a sitting or a standing position before the handler has arrived beside the dog and given the command.

It is not allowed to show the dog directions at the starting point, or to show the square to the dog before the exercise. This will lead to failing the exercise.

#### **EXERCISE 1.6**

#### **Distance control, sit /down, 4 changes**

**[Coeff. 4]**

#### **Commands:**

“Down” “stay”, “Sit”, “Down” and hand signals.

#### **Performance:**

The dog should change positions four times (sit/down) according to the handler's commands and remain in its original place. A boundary is formed behind the dog by an imaginary line connecting two markers. The handler commands his/her dog to lie down at the starting point in front of the boundary. The handler leaves the dog and moves to an assigned place approx. 5 m in front of the dog, facing the dog. The order of taking the positions are only sit - down (two times), and thus the last command for changing position should be “down”. The steward shows the handler the order in which the dog should change positions, using written signs or drawings, or an electrical display board. The steward should stand approximately 3-5 m from the dog, so that he/she is not able to see the dog when displaying the instructions. The steward should change the sign about every 3 seconds. The handler may use both voice commands and hand signals when at distance from the dog, but they must be short and used simultaneously. After the last down command, the handler returns to the dog and commands it to sit.

**Directions *for judging*:**

Emphasis should be on the speed at which positions are changed, the clearness of the positions, and how well the positions are held, and how much the dog moves. To get any points, the dog should not move more than one body length in total from the starting point (in any direction). The distances for all movements are added together (back and forth, sideways, etc.). If the dog misses one position of the four, e.g. takes a wrong position or has had a third command on a position, no more than 7 points should be given. **If the dog misses two positions, no more than 5 points can be awarded.**

If the dog sits up before the handler returns, no more than 8 points should be given. Extensive use of voice and exaggerated or long-lasting hand signals drop points. (See general rules.)

A third command on a position may be given, but this position is then failed. The first time a second command has to be given on a position -2 points are deducted. The next additional ones are -1 point.

**EXERCISE 1.7 *Jumping over a hurdle and retrieving a wooden dumbbell* [Coeff. 4]**

**Command: *“Jump”, “Retrieve” and “Release” (“Heel”)***

***The owner’s wooden dumbbell may be used, but suitable dumbbells should also be available.***

**Performance:**

The handler is placed in front of a hurdle at a distance of approximately 2 - 4 m from the hurdle (handler’s choice) with the dog sitting in heel position. ***The steward hands over the dumbbell to the handler. The handler throws the wooden dumbbell over the hurdle. The handler commands the dog to jump over the hurdle, retrieve the dumbbell and jump back. The “retrieve” command should not be given later than when the dog starts his jump. The handler may use his/her own dumbbell, but the judge should check that the middle part is wooden.***

**Directions *for judging*: *If the dog has to search for the dumbbell for a moment and is working actively, no points should be reduced.*** If the dog touches the hurdle even slightly when jumping, the maximum score is 8 points. If the dog supports itself on the hurdle, the exercise is failed ***(0 points)***. ***If the dog does not jump both back and forth over the hurdle, no more than 6 may be awarded, if both jumps are missed, the exercise is failed. It is failed (0 points) also, if the dog does not retrieve the dumbbell. If the hurdle falls over, the exercise is failed (0 points). If the dog anticipates the command, 2-4 points should be deducted. A second “retrieve” or “jump” command reduces 1 point. If the dog leaves its position as the dumbbell is thrown, the exercise is failed.***

***For dropping the dumbbell and for chewing or biting on the dumbbell see the general guidelines for judging exercises.***

## EXERCISE 1.8

Send away round **a group of cones /a barrel** and return

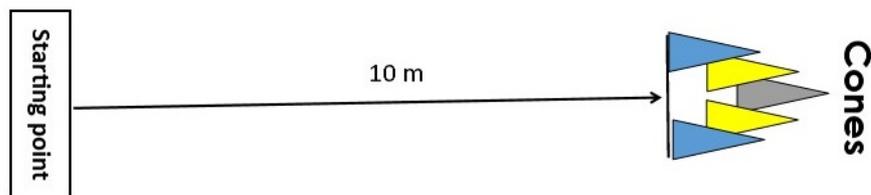
[Coeff. 4]

**Command:** "Around" ["Right/left" and hand signal] ("Heel")

**Performance:**

**A group of cones (3-6) or a barrel (both approximately 40-50 cm high) are placed at a distance of approximately 10 metres from the starting point. The diameter of the barrel should be approximately 70-80 cm and the 3-6 cones should cover the corresponding area. The area should therefore be 0,4 – 0,5 m<sup>2</sup>. It is recommended that the cones are placed as shown in the figure below. Other alternatives for placing the cones are shown in Appendix 4. In Class 1, there should not, however, be big spaces between the cones that might provoke running between the cones.**

The handler stands with the dog in heel position at the starting point facing **the cones /barrel**. The handler sends his dog from the starting point to run round the cone. The dog should run round the cone and return to the handler and take the heel position. **The dog should not see the placing of the cones/barrel and therefore the cones/barrel should be placed before the handler stands at the starting point.**



**Directions for judging:**

Emphasis should be on the dog's willingness to follow the commands, the dog's tempo and its taking **a reasonably short way**. When running round the cone, the dog's distance from the cone should **not be too close, approximately 30 cm to 70 cm**, taking into account the breed and tempo. The dog's path can be clockwise or counterclockwise round the cones/barrel.

If a recall command is given, no more than 8 points can be awarded. If the dog turns having reached the cone **s/barrel**, but not gone around it, no more than 5 points can be awarded. If the dog makes two turns round the cones, no more than 8 can be awarded. The exercise is failed (0 points.), if the dog turns before it has reached the **cones**, if a third "round" command is given, or if a second recall command is given. If the dog has to be redirected, hand signals may be combined with the directing command. The breed of the dog should be taken into account in judging the tempo.

***If the dog touches or collides with a cone or the barrel, 1 - 3 points are deducted, depending on forcefulness/ intensity of the collision. If the dog knocks over a cone / cones, 2-3 points are deducted. If the dog runs between the set of cones 3 points are deducted.***

Showing the dog directions or touching the dog at the starting point will lead to failing of the exercise.

## **EXERCISE 1.9**

### **General impression**

**[Coeff. 2]**

#### **Directions *for judging:***

When judging the general impression, the dog's willingness to work and obey the commands are essential. Accuracy and precision are important, as well as natural movements of both the handler and the dog. To get a high score both the handler and the dog must work well as a team, show mutual enjoyment in working together and good sportsmanship. The activities during and between the exercises influence the score given for the general impression.

If the dog is out of control and leaves the handler during or between the exercises (even once), but stays in the ring, not more than 7 points may be awarded for the general impression, assuming that the dog has returned (not more than two recalls).

If the dog leaves the ring, but returns immediately on recall (two recalls), not more than 5 points may be awarded.

If the dog does not return to the handler, or if it leaves a second time, it is disqualified.

If the dog relieves itself in the ring, no points can be awarded for the general impression.

***Note that higher points than those mentioned above cannot be awarded, if the final points are calculated as an average of the points awarded by two or more judges judging separate exercises. See general directions for judging point 73.***

## CLASS 2

### EXERCISE 2.1

### Lying in a group for 2 minutes.

[Coeff. 3]

### Handlers out of sight

**Commands:** "Down", "Stay", "Sit"

**Performance:** The exercise starts when all handlers of the group stand in a row at an approximately 3 metres' distance from each other with their dogs in heel position and the steward announces "Exercise starts". The exercise ends when the handlers have returned to their dogs and all dogs have taken their heel position, and the steward has announced "Exercise over".

The lying down on command from the heel position is performed one by one. The dogs should be commanded to lie down from left to right and to sit up from right to left, so that the first dog to lie down is the last one to sit up. The steward tells when to give the command. The handlers walk out of sight of the dogs together and stay hidden for 2 minutes. The two minute period starts when all the handlers are out of sight. The dogs stay lying down and are subjected to distractions, e.g. a person weaving between the dogs. When 2 minutes have elapsed, the handlers are instructed to walk together back into the ring and line up inside the ring. The handlers are then told to walk up behind their dogs, passing them at a distance of approximately 0,5 m and to stop approx. 3 metres behind their dogs and to turn around. The handlers are then instructed to walk up beside their dog and told one by one to command their dog to heel position.

The handlers should be reminded that they are not to give their commands too loudly. This might affect the other dogs, and will result in a strong reduction of points. There should be at least three dogs in a group, but no more than six.

### **Directions** **for judging:**

A dog that fails to lie down (two commands), stands up, or sits while the handlers are out of sight, or crawls more than its own body length or lies on its back, fails the exercise (0 points). If the dog sits or stands up after the two-minute period is over, but the handlers have already lined up inside the ring, no more than 5 points can be awarded. If the dog also moves, the exercise is failed (0 points).

All movement should reduce points. If the dog barks 1-2 times, 1-2 points are deducted; if it barks most of the time, the exercise is failed (0 points). Restlessness, such as shifting its weight from one side to another, results in a reduction of points. The dog is allowed to turn its head and look around, and it is allowed to show interest, if there is a distraction or noise from inside or outside of the ring. This must not, however, give an appearance of restlessness or anxiety. If a dog stands up and goes close to another dog, so that there is a risk of a severe disturbance or of a fight, the exercise must be stopped, and then resumed for all dogs, except for the dog that caused the disturbance.

If the dog reacts (lies down or sits up) before the handler's command (e.g. on a neighbour's "down" or "sit" command), no more than 8 points can be awarded. If the dog has reacted too early (lying down or sitting up), it should remain in this position (lying down or sitting up). Failing to do so at the beginning of the exercise leads to failing the exercise. If the dog sits up independently and lies down again, no more than 5 points can be awarded. No more than 7 points can be awarded, if a dog lies on its side (flank) or fails to sit up.

## EXERCISE 2.2

### Heelwork

[Coeff. 4]

**Command:** "Heel"

**Performance:** Heelwork is tested at different speeds, normal, slow and fast pace, in conjunction with turns and turnabouts and halts. The dog must also be tested when the handler moves two or three steps forwards and backwards, as well as a short distance of walking directly backwards (5-8 steps /2-3 metres). It should be ensured that the path for walking backwards is even and safe.

***Time recommendation for heelwork: not more than approximately 2 minutes. Take into consideration that some breeds/handlers take more/less time when walking the pattern.***

*The general directions describe heelwork in more detail.*

### **Directions for judging:**

A dog that leaves the handler or follows the handler at a distance of more than half a metre during a major part of the exercise, fails the exercise (0 points). If the dog moves slowly, no more than 6-7 points should be awarded. Lack of contact and extra commands are classed as mistakes as well. An imperfect direction (not parallel) of the heel position should result in a loss of about 2 points. Slowing down and stopping before, during or after turns will reduce points. Points should be deducted, if a dog walks very near to the handler, so that it disturbs or hinders the handler. Even more points should be dropped, if the dog leans on or touches the handler. Some caution on the part of the handler is allowed when walking backwards. Not more than 1-2 points should be dropped, if the walking backwards is not quite perfect.

## **EXERCISE 2.3**

## **Stand and/or sit, and/or down under march**

**[Coeff. 3]**

**Commands:** “Heel” (3 times), “Stand”, “Sit”, “Down”

### **Performance:**

The exercise is performed according to the enclosed figure. The dog takes two out of the three positions stand/sit/down. The judge will decide before the competition which two positions will be used, and in which order.

Under march the handler commands, on instruction from the steward, the dog to take the first position (stand/sit/down), and then to take the second position. The pace should be normal pace. There should be a turn left or a turn right, the turning direction being the same for all competitors. The turning points (left/right, 90°) should be marked with small cones. The order of the positions and the order of turning left and right may vary, but should be the same for all dogs in a competition.

The steward will instruct the handler when to start, when to command the dog to stand/sit/down, when to turn around, and when to stop at the end. The turns at the corners are done independently. The stops will be approximately at the middle point (5 m) of the 10 metre line segment. The handler continues to walk 5 m forward (approximately to the next turning point), turns around on command of the steward, continues to walk towards his dog, passes his dog at a distance of approx. 0,5 m leaving the dog to his left side, continues to walk for approx. 2 m, turns around on command of the steward, and walks up towards his dog. Upon reaching his dog, the handler gives the heel command without stopping. They continue to the turning point (5 m), turn left/right, and continue along the next segment line to the middle of the next segment line. The exercise continues in a similar way as the first phase of the exercise. The exercise ends when the steward has given a stop command and announced “End of exercise”.

The stand, sit and down positions should be parallel to the imaginary lines connecting the starting/turning/ending points. The distance between the dog and the turning points should be approx. 0,5 m taking into consideration the size of the dog. The corners should be 90°, not rounded off. The handler and dog should pass the corner cones from the right-hand side leaving them on the left side. See figure for ex. 3 of Class 2.

### **Directions **for judging:****

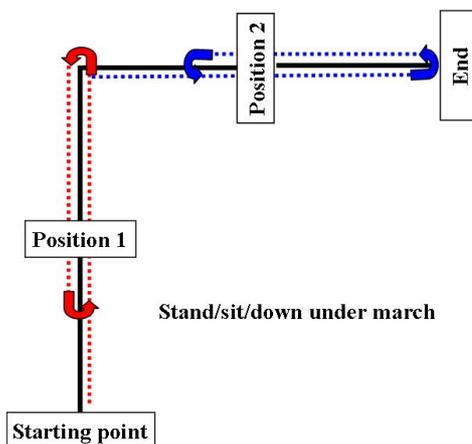
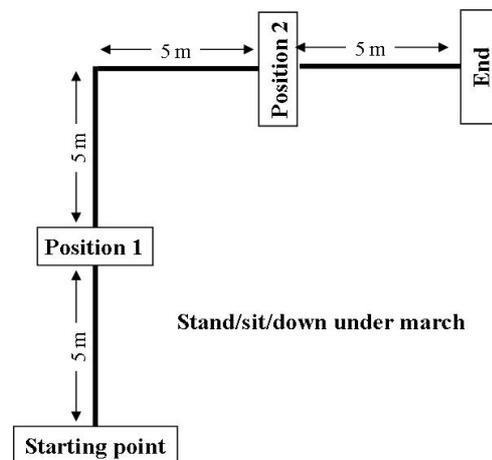
To get points for the exercise, at least one position must be performed. If the dog stops once in a wrong position (e.g. sitting instead of down), or if the dog misses one position, no more than 7 points can be awarded for the exercise. The dog misses the position, if it takes the wrong position, if it moves more than one body length after the command, if the handler gives a second command, or if strong hand signals or strong body language are used on the position.

If the dog completely fails to stop at a position, i.e. has not stopped before the handler has turned around, the exercise is failed (0 points). A second command can be used to stop the dog, and if the dog stops before the handler has reached the next turning point, the exercise can be continued, but no more than 6 points can be awarded.

In judging attention should be paid to the heelwork as well as to the positions (stand/sit/down) being parallel to the imaginary lines connecting the starting/turning/ending points.

Moving, standing/sitting/lying down slowly, not taking straight positions, bad heelwork, changing pace, rounded corners and not keeping the correct course (parallel to the imaginary connecting lines), and turning to look at the dog are mistakes. The reduction for such mistakes should be 1-4 points. If the handler passes the dog from the wrong side, 1 point should be deducted.

No extra commands are allowed on the positions. Such extra commands fail the position concerned. Hand signals and body language on the stand/sit/down commands are grave mistakes and will deduct points severely. Depending on their strength and duration, the deduction is 1-5 points or the position can also be failed.



## **EXERCISE 2.4**

### **Recall with stand**

**[Coeff. 3]**

#### **Commands:**

“Down”, (“Stay”) “Come” “Stand” and hand signal, “Come” (“Heel”)

***Voice commands must be used. Hand signal is allowed in addition to voice command on the stop. One hand or both hands may be used.***

#### **Performance:**

The dog is commanded to lie down and the handler walks approximately 25 – 30 m in the indicated direction and turns around to face the dog. On permission from the steward, the handler recalls the dog. The handler orders the dog to stand when the dog has covered approximately half of the distance. When told, (after approximately 3 seconds) the handler recalls the dog again to heel position. The steward tells the handler only when to recall the dog. The handler gives the stop command independently at the marker. The stop command must be a verbal command, but a simultaneous hand signal is allowed. The dog’s name may be combined with the recall commands, but name and command must be given immediately one after another and may not give the impression of two separate commands.

#### **Directions *for judging:***

It is important that the dog responds willingly to all recall commands. If a second recall is needed (either at the start off or after the stop) 2 points are deducted. A third recall at the start or at the position results in the failing of the exercise, as well as two recalls on both positions (start off and after the stop).

The dog should move at good speed and keep its pace, at least a fast trot. Moving slowly counts as a mistake. The breed should be taken into consideration in judging the speed. The dog should begin stopping at once after the command. When evaluating the stop, the speed of the dog should also be considered. There can be some tolerance on stopping immediately for fast dogs, but not for slow dogs. To get full points (for the stop) no more than one body length can be exceeded from the time of command to the stop. To obtain any points (for the stop) no more than 3 body lengths can be exceeded. If the dog misses the position (stops after 3 body lengths), no more than 7 points can be awarded. If there is no attempt to stop, the exercise is failed (0 points). If the dog stops in a wrong position, no more than 7 points can be awarded. If the dog sits or stands up before the first recall command, no more than 8 points can be given. If the dog moves a distance of more than one body length before the first recall command, the exercise is failed (0 points).

## EXERCISE 2.5

## Send away to a square, down and recall

[Coeff. 4 ]

**Commands:** "Forward", ["Right/left" and hand signal], ("Stand"), "Down", "Come"

### Performance:

Before starting the exercise, that handler should inform the judge whether he/she will command the dog first to stand and then to lie down in the square, or to lie down in the square directly.

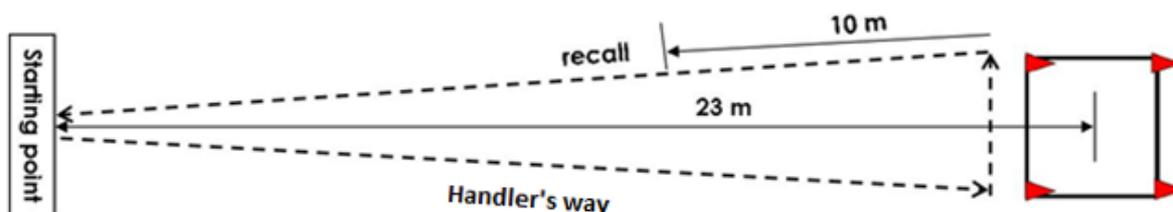
When the steward gives permission, the handler directs the dog to a 3 m x 3 m square that is located approximately 23 metres from the starting point. The dog should move in a straight line to the square and should enter the square from the front.

When the dog reaches the square, the handler commands the dog either to stand and then to lie down, or to lie down directly. If the dog is commanded to stand, the stand position should be clear and stable, before the down command is given.

When told, the handler walks forward in the direction of the right-side cone. When the handler has reached a distance of approximately 2 m from the cone, the handler is told to turn left and after approximately 3 metres the handler is told to turn left again, back towards to the starting point. After approximately 10 m from the second turn, the handler is told to recall the dog while continuing to walk towards the starting point. Having reached the starting point the handler is told to stop.

The handler should not use more than four commands during this exercise, the fourth command being a stand command in the square. Alternatively the handler can command the dog directly to lie down and thus use only three commands. If the dog has to be redirected, hand signals may be combined with the directing command.

The size of the square is 3 X 3 m. The distance between the middle of the square and the starting point is approximately 23 metres. Cones (approx. 10 - 15 cm high) mark the square at each corner. Visible lines (e.g., tape, chalk lines, strands) should connect the cones on their outer side. There should be at least an approx. 3-5 metres distance from the borders of the square to the nearest ring borders. See Figure for exercise 5 of Class 2.



### **Directions for judging:**

The dog's willingness to follow directions and commands, the dog's tempo and straight route should be emphasised. To get 10 points, the handler should not use more than four commands during this exercise, the fourth command being the stand command in the square. The dog must follow the commands (e.g., if a stand command is given in the square, it must stand, and if it is commanded to lie down directly, it must do so). If the handler moves (takes steps in any direction) while giving the commands, the exercise is failed (0 points). If there is excess action (body language) by the handler, no more than 8 points should be given. If the dog acts on its own, this reduces points (i.e. if the dog stops or lies down without a command). If the dog lies down outside the square, the exercise is failed. If the dog is already down, no redirecting command is allowed. To get points, no part of the dog may be outside the markings of the square, except for the tail.

The exercise is failed if the dog rises to sit up or stand before the handler's second turn. No more than 5 points can be awarded if the dog rises (to sit up or stand) after the handler's second turn before it is recalled. If the dog moves in the square without rising, no more than 7 points can be awarded. If it moves and crosses the border before recall, the exercise is failed. If the dog moves very slowly, no more than 6 points should be given.

A second recall, stand or down command reduces 2 points/command. The exercise is failed if even one of these commands has to be given a third time. Hand signals are only allowed, if the dog has to be directed. A hand signal given when the dog is beside the handler, causes 2 points to be deducted.

If the dog takes a wrong position in the square, 3 points are deducted, and if the standing position is not clear, 2 points are deducted. The deduction of points for extra directing commands depends on their strength and the dog's willingness to obey the commands, thus the deduction can be 1-2 points.

Showing the dog directions (e.g. the square), or touching the dog at the starting point will lead to failing the exercise.

## EXERCISE 2.6

## Directed retrieve

[Coeff. 3]

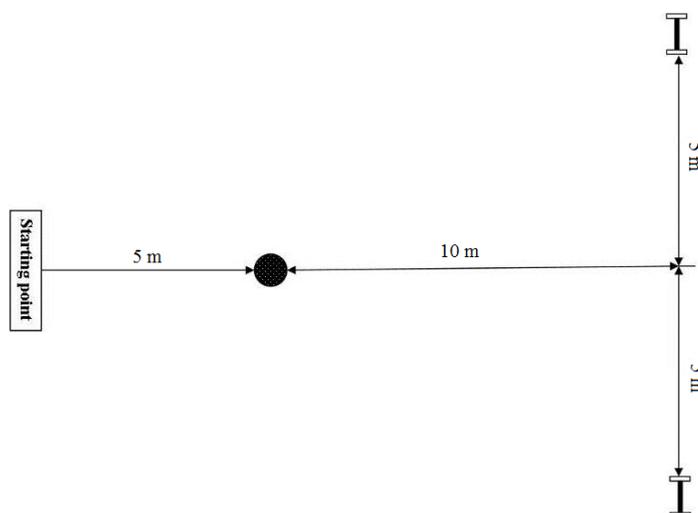
### Commands:

“Heel”, “Stand”, [“Right/left” and hand signal], “Retrieve”,  
“Release” (“Heel”)

### Performance:

Handler and dog stand at the starting point facing a marker at a distance of approximately 5 m. The marker is situated approximately 10 m from the centre of the imaginary line between two dumbbells, and the starting point is approximately 15 m from this line. The steward places two wooden dumbbells in a row approx. 10 m apart from each other, so that they are easily seen. Despite which dumbbell is to be retrieved, the steward always places the dumbbells in the same order in a competition, either always from the left or from the right.

The handler is told to walk with his dog from the starting point towards the marker, pass the marker (1-2 m) and turn around on the command of the steward, after which he/she should place the dog (independently) in a standing position at the marker, facing the starting point. The handler leaves the dog and returns to the starting point and turns towards the dumbbells. The handler should not stop when leaving his dog. After about 3 seconds, the handler is told to direct the dog to the correct dumbbell that has been determined by draw, and the dog should retrieve and deliver the dumbbell correctly. The directing command (right/left) and the retrieve command should be given close together, thus a late retrieve command will be interpreted as a second point command. See figure for ex. 6 of Class 2.



**Directions *for judging:***

Emphasis should be on the dog's willingness to follow the retrieve/directive commands, the dog's tempo and its taking the shortest way to the correct dumbbell. Showing the dog directions or touching the dog at the starting point will lead to failing of the exercise (0 points). To obtain points for this exercise, the dog should remain standing at the marker until commanded forward. A dog that lies down, sits or moves at the marker, cannot get more than 8 points. If the dog moves more than one body length from its standing position before the command, the exercise is failed (0 points).

If the dog goes to the wrong dumbbell, is stopped and redirected to the correct one and the dog brings the correct one, 3 points should be reduced. If the dog is redirected from the wrong dumbbell without a stop, 2 points should be reduced.

If the wrong dumbbell is picked up, the exercise is failed (0 points).

The reduction for extra directing /redirecting commands depends on their strength, and the dog's willingness to obey the commands. It can be 1-2 points/command.

*For dropping the dumbbell and for chewing or biting on the dumbbell, see the general guidelines for judging exercises.*

## **EXERCISE 2.7**

## **Scent discrimination and retrieve**

**[Coeff. 4]**

**Commands:** “Seek”, “Release”, (“Heel”)

### **Performance:**

The handler stands at the starting point with the dog in heel position and the steward announces the start of the exercise and gives the handler a wooden retrieve object (10 cm x 2 cm x 2 cm), which has been marked beforehand with some identification. The handler can keep the object in his/her hand for approximately 10 seconds. The dog is not allowed to touch or scent the object at this stage. The steward tells the handler to hand over the object and to turn around. The handler decides whether the dog does or does not see when the objects are positioned. Heel and stay commands are allowed. The steward walks to place the handler’s object, without touching it, together with five other similar objects on the ground, or floor at a distance of about 10 metres from the handler. The steward places the other five objects by hand and thus touches them. The objects are placed in a circle or in a horizontal line at a distance of approximately 25 cm from each other. The objects should be placed in the same pattern for all competitors, but the position of the handler’s object **must** vary. In the case of a horizontal line, the handler’s object should not be the outermost object at either end of the line.

The handler is then told to turn around and to command the dog to retrieve the marked object. The dog should find the handler’s object, retrieve it and deliver it to the handler in accordance with the general directions.

The dog should be allowed to work approximately half a minute, if the working is active and goal driven. There should be six new objects for each competitor.

### **Directions **for judging:****

Emphasis should be on the dog’s willingness to work and its tempo. If the dog picks up the wrong object once but then brings the correct one, no more than 7 points can be awarded. The exercise is failed (0 points), if the dog is allowed to scent or touch the object at the beginning of the exercise before it is handed back to the steward, if commands are given when the dog is at the objects, or if the dog picks up a wrong object twice.

**The exercise is not failed,** if the dog scents the objects when seeking for the correct one.

*For dropping the dumbbell and for chewing or biting on the dumbbell see the general guidelines for judging exercises.*

## EXERCISE 2.8

## **Distance control**

[Coeff. 4]

### **Commands:**

“Down” “Stay”, “Sit”, “Stand”, “Down” and hand signals.  
One hand or both hands may be used.

### **Performance:**

The dog should change positions 6 times (**sit / stand / down**) according to the handler's commands and remain in its original place. A boundary is formed behind the dog by an imaginary line connecting two markers. The handler commands his/her dog to lie down at the starting point in front of the boundary. The handler leaves the dog and moves to an assigned place approx. 10 m from the dog and turns around. The order of taking the positions should always be **sit - stand - down** or **stand - sit - down** and thus the last command for changing position should be “down”. The order of taking the positions should be the same for all competitors.

The steward shows the handler with written signs or drawings or an electric display board the order in which the dog should change positions. The steward should stand approximately 3 - 5 metres from the dog, and so that he/she is not able to see the dog, when displaying the instructions. The steward should change the sign about every 3 seconds.

The handler may use both voice commands and hand signals when at a distance from the dog, but they must be short and used simultaneously. After the last “down” command, the handler returns to the dog and commands it to sit.

### **Directions **for judging:****

Emphasis should be on the speed at which positions are changed, the clearness of the positions, how well the positions are held, and how much the dog moves. To get any points, the dog should not move in total more than one body length from the starting point (in any direction). Distances for all movements are added together (back and forth, sideways, etc.) and assessed.

If the dog misses one position of the six, no more than 7 points should be awarded, and if it misses two positions, no more than 5 points should be awarded. Thus if the dog jumps over one position, and takes the next position instead, no more than 5 points can be awarded. If the dog moves one body length, it cannot score more than 5. The dog has to change positions at least four times on command to get points.

If the dog sits up before the handler returns, no more than 8 points should be given. Extensive use of voice and exaggerated or long-lasting hand signals drop points. (See general rules.) No more than 8 points can be awarded, if the dog has to have two commands on a position change. Disobeying a second command on a position leads to missing that position. The first extra command on a position is thus -2 points and the next ones are -1 point.

It is possible to get points for this exercise even if 3 – 4 of the positions have been achieved only after an extra command, provided that the extra commands are obeyed immediately,

and lead to good, clear positions, and the exercise is otherwise performed well according to description.

**EXERCISE 2.9**      ***Send around a group of cones (a barrel), stop and jumping a hurdle***

**[Coeff. 3]**

**Commands:**      *“Round“, “Stand /down“ and hand signal, “right/left” – “jump” and hand signal, (“Heel”)*

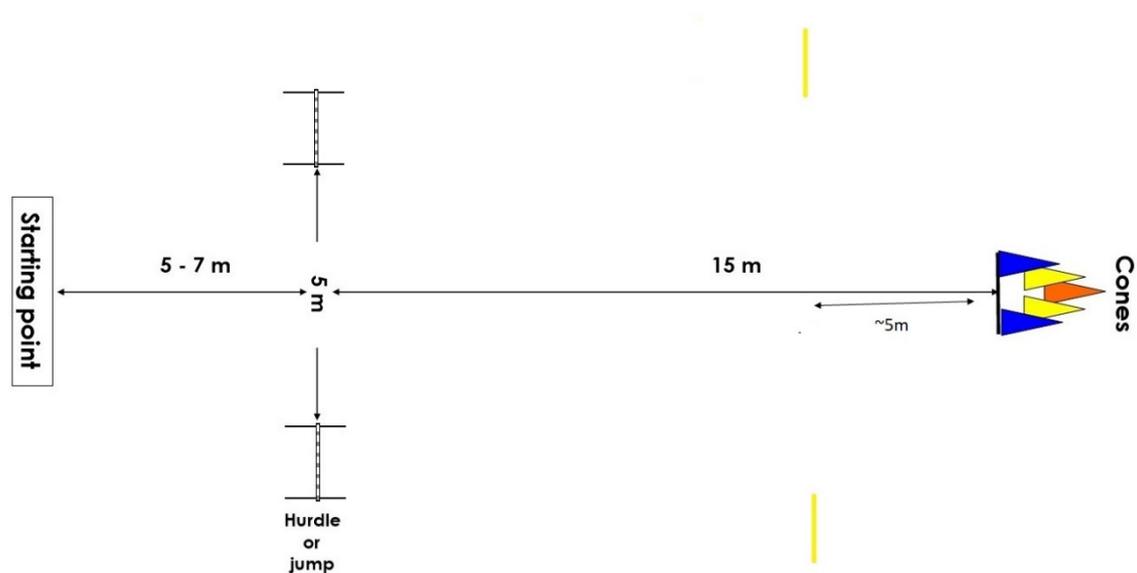
*A hand signal may be used in addition for the stop command and directing command (left/right) to the jump*

**Description:**

*Before the competition starts, the judge will determine which position, stand or down the dog should take on its way back to the handler. The position is the same for all competitors. The handler (or steward or judge) should draw which hurdle the dog should jump (open/close//left/right). The handler will be informed which hurdle the dog should jump when the dog has taken its position stand or down. The steward says “open/closed ..... command”.*

*A group of cones (3-6) or a barrel (both approximately 40-50 cm high) are placed at a distance of approximately 15 metres from the connecting line of the hurdles. The diameter of the barrel should be approximately 70-80 cm and the 3-6 cones should cover the corresponding area. The area should therefore be 0,4 – 0,5 m<sup>2</sup>. It is recommended to place the cones as shown in the figure below and appendix 4. The dog should not see the placing of the cones/barrel and therefore the cones/barrel should be placed before the handler stands at the starting point.*

*Two hurdles (one closed with planks and one open with a bar) are situated approximately 15 from the group of cones/barrel and 5 metres from each other. The height of the hurdles should not be more than 50 cm. The starting area is 5 – 7 metres in front of the connecting line of the hurdles and the distance can be chosen by the handler.*



Figures for the recommended construction of all hurdles are at the end of these guidelines in Part VII, Appendix 1.1 & 1.2 and suggestions for patterns of the cones are in Appendix 4.

**Performance:**

The handler stands at the starting point with the dog in heel position. The steward announces the start of the exercise. On instruction, the handler sends the dog to go around the cones/barrel. The ideal is not to do a close (tight) turn around the cones/barrel. Depending on breed, approximately 30 - 70 cm is a suitable distance from the cones/barrel. When the dog is on way back and has passed the cones/barrel by approximately 5 metres, the handler independently commands a stop (stand/down). A voice command has to be used but may be accompanied by a simultaneous hand signal. The five meters' distance may be indicated by cones, tapes or half spheres. During the stop (appr. 3 sec.) the steward informs the direction/hurdle "open /closed.....command". On the steward's command the handler directs the dog to start off and jump the correct hurdle and the dog returns to heel position.

**Directions for judging:**

Emphasis should be on the dog's willingness to follow the commands and directions, the dog's tempo and its taking a reasonably short way, but leaving a suitable distance from the cones/barrel. Symmetry and focusing towards the middle line when returning, are also valued. The dog has to show a good and consistent speed, at least a fast trot. Slow working will reduce points (1-5). The breed has to be taken into consideration when judging the speed and distance from the cones/barrel.

The dog should obey the commands immediately. If the dog turns back before the cones/barrel, it has to be redirected to circle round the cones/barrel. This drops 2 points for the second command.

The exercise is failed (0 points) if the dog does not circle round the cones/barrel. The handler has two directing commands (-1 point for each additional command if the dog obeys). After the dog has gone around the cones/barrel and proceeded approximately 5 meters from the cones, the dog should take the correct position (stand/down) on command.

To obtain points for this exercise, the dog must remain in its position (stand /down) until it gets the command to continue the exercise. A dog that takes the wrong position, cannot get more than 8 points.

The handler is allowed to give a jump command after the dog has started off towards the hurdle.

If the dog goes towards the wrong hurdle and is stopped and redirected (two commands) to the correct one and jumps the correct one, 3 points should be deducted. If the dog is redirected from the wrong direction or hurdle without a stop, 1-2 points should be deducted.

The reduction of points for extra directing commands depends on their strength and the dog's willingness to obey the commands. It can be 1-2 points/command. The reduction of points for other extra commands should be congruent with the general directions.

If the dog touches or collides with a cone or the barrel, 1 - 3 points are deducted, depending on forcefulness/ intensity of the collision. If the dog knocks over a cone / cones, 2-3 points are deducted. If the dog runs between the set of cones 3 points are deducted.

If the dog jumps the hurdle on the way to the cones, the exercise is failed (0 points).

If the dog touches the hurdle when jumping, 2 points should be deducted.

If the dog drops the bar of the open hurdle, not more than 2 points should be deducted either.

If the dog supports itself on the hurdle, the exercise is failed (0 points).

If the hurdle falls over, the exercise is failed (0 points).

The exercise is failed, if the handler gives the stop command (stand/down) clearly too early, i.e. when the dog is still beside the cone or has just passed the cone.

If the handler stops the dog too early, but so that it has clearly passed the cone (by at least one – two metres), 2 points should be deducted.

If the dog anticipates the commands, 2-4 points should be deducted. If it acts independently (i.e. stops slightly before command), 2 points should be deducted.

If the dog stops independently (without a command, clearly too early), it should be recalled and stopped again. No more than 6 can be awarded.

**Showing the dog directions, or touching the dog at the starting point will lead to failing the exercise (0 points).**

**EXERCISE 2.10**

**General impression**

**[Coeff. 2]**

**Directions *for judging*:**

When judging the general impression the dog's willingness to work and obey the commands are essential. Accuracy and precision are important, as well as natural movements of both the handler and the dog. To get a high score both the handler and the dog must work well as a team, show mutual enjoyment in working together and good sportsmanship. The activities during and between the exercises influence the score for the general impression.

If the dog is out of control and leaves the handler during or between the exercises (even once), but stays in the ring, no more than 5 points may be awarded for the general impression assuming that the dog has returned on the first recall. If the dog does not return or if it leaves a second time, it is disqualified.

If the dog leaves the ring during an exercise or between exercises or if it relieves itself in the ring, it is disqualified.

***Note, that higher points than those mentioned above can not be awarded if the final points are calculated as an average of two or more judges judging separate exercises. See general directions for judging point 73.***

## CLASS 3

### EXERCISES 3.1 & 3.2

- **Sitting in a group (2 min) handlers out of sight** [Coeff. 2]
- **Lying down for 1 min and recall** [Coeff. 2]

The exercises 3.1 and 3.2 are combined, but the points are given for both parts separately.

**Commands:** "Sit", "Stay", "Down" and Hand signal , "Come"

**Performance:** The exercise starts when all handlers of the group stand in a row at approximately 4 - 5 metres' distance from each other with their dogs in heel position and the steward announces "Exercise starts". The exercise ends (Part 1) when the handlers have returned inside the ring, facing their dogs at a distance of not less than approximately 10 metres and the steward announces "Exercise over".

Part 2 (Ex. 2) starts immediately after part 1.

The dogs are sitting in heel position in a row at approx. 4 - 5 metres' distance from each other. When told, the handlers leave their dogs and walk out of sight of the dogs and stay hidden for 2 minutes. The two-minute period starts when all handlers are out of sight. When 2 minutes have elapsed, the handlers are instructed to walk back into the ring and take a standing position inside the ring. The handlers are then told to walk and take a standing position approximately 10 metres from the dogs facing the dogs.

Part 1 has ended and part 2 begins immediately.

The steward starts the second part of the exercise by saying "Part 2 begins". The dogs should be sitting.

Handlers of dogs that have taken a wrong position during part 1 should command their dogs to the correct position, i.e. sit on instruction by the steward.

The handlers are told to command the dogs down one by one from left to right. They will be lying for 1 minute, and after which they will be recalled one by one from right to left. The recall will be on the steward's command and the steward will move to the next dog only after the previous dog is in heel position beside the handler.

Loud commands may disturb the others and will reduce points severely.

There should not be more than four dogs in a group, but no less than three. In case of only five entries in Class 3, all five can do the exercise together.

It is up to the judge to decide how handlers with dogs which have failed part 2 from the start, and handlers, who do not wish to recall their dogs, should do.

## **Directions for judging:**

A dog that stands up or lies down during part 1 gets 0 points for part 1. A dog that leaves its place (more than one body length) fails the whole exercise (parts 1 and 2). If a dog lies down or stands up after the two-minute period is over and the handlers have already lined up inside the ring, no more than 5 points can be awarded. If, however, the dog has moved more than one body length at any point, both exercises (ex 3.1 and 3.2) are failed.

Dogs which are standing or lying after part 1 has ended, can be commanded one by one to a sitting position. No points will be lost for the first command to a sitting position. If a second command is needed, 2 points will be deducted. Part 2 is failed (0 points), if the dog does not sit even after the second command.

If a dog changes position after part 2 has started, i.e. from sit to stand or lying down, the handler is not allowed to correct the position anymore. A dog which is already lying down when the phase where the dogs are commanded to lie down begins, cannot be awarded more than 7 points, and a dog that is standing, cannot be awarded more than 8 points.

If a dog lies down before command (i.e. on a neighbour's command), no more than 8 points can be awarded for part 2.

Part 2 is failed, if the dog does not lie down, if the dog changes position (to sit or stand) during the one-minute period, moves more than one body length, or lies on its back. Not more than 7 can be awarded, if the dog lies on its side.

If a dog comes on another dog's recall command, no more than 5 points can be awarded for part 2. A dog coming without any recall command will fail part 2 (0 points). If a dog needs a second recall command, not more than 7 points can be awarded.

If the dog barks 1-2 times, 1-2 points are reduced; if it barks most of the time, the exercise is failed (0 points).

All excess movement should reduce points. Restlessness, such as shifting weight from one side to another, should reduce points. The dog is allowed to turn its head and look around, and it is allowed to show interest if there is a distraction or noise inside or outside the ring. This, however, should not give the appearance of restlessness or anxiety. If a dog stands up and goes close to another dog, so that there is fear of severe disturbance or a fight, the exercise must be stopped and then resumed for all the dogs, except for the dog that caused the disturbance.

Exercises 3.1 - 3.2 are perceived as one exercise and thus there is not a possibility for the handler to intervene (rewarding or communicating) in any way between these two exercises.

It is recommended that the area outside the ring in front of the dogs is a closed area (no outsiders besides personnel are allowed) during this exercise. In the WW competitions this arrangement is obligatory.

## **EXERCISES 3.3 & 3.4**

- Heelwork [coeff. 4]
- Positions under march [coeff. 3]

*Exercises 3.3 “Heelwork” and 3.4 “Positions under march” are combined. The combined exercises start with heelwork. The positions under march can be integrated anywhere within the heelwork, during normal, slow and/or fast pace. The positions under march should be done successively, one after another.*

*The exercises 3.3 and 3.4 are judged separately, so it must be clearly indicated when the heelwork is ongoing and when the positions under march is ongoing. There are two different varieties in the exercise “Positions under march”:*

*1. return to the dog /take the dog along*

*2. recall the dog*

*Both of these have to be shown.*

*All dogs in the competition should do the heelwork and positions under march according to the same scheme.*

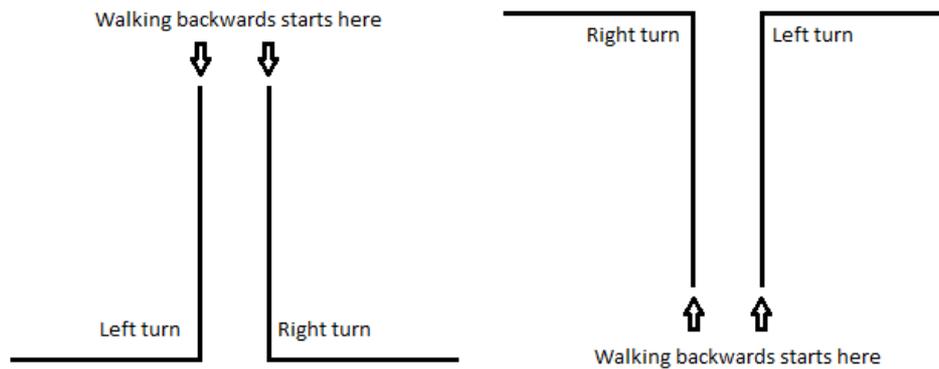
*It is recommended to adapt the scheme and method of execution to the character of the event. The maximum time for the heelwork and the positions under march together should not exceed approximately 3 – 4 minutes.*

### **EXERCISE 3.3      Heelwork      [Coeff. 4]**

**Command:**                      “Heel”

**Performance:**                  Heelwork is tested at different speeds, normal, slow and fast pace, in conjunction with turns, turnabouts and halts. The dog must also be tested when the handler moves two or three steps in different directions from a standing position, and when the handler makes turns and turnabouts from a standing position. The dog must also be tested in walking backwards approximately 5 - 10 metres (15 - 30 steps). Walking backwards must include one turn. The steward tells when to start, when to stop and when to turn. It should be made sure that the path for walking backwards is even and safe. The steward should have some landmarks so that the distance walking backwards can be estimated correctly.

*The general directions describe heelwork in more detail.*



**Directions *for judging:***

A dog that leaves the handler or follows the handler at a distance of more than half a metre during a major part of the exercise fails the exercise (0 points). If the dog moves slowly, only 6-7 points should be awarded. Lack of contact and extra commands are mistakes. An imperfect direction (not parallel) of the heel position should result in loss of about 2 points. Slowing down and stopping before, during or after turns will reduce points. The distance between dog and handler should be distinct. Points should be reduced if a dog walks very near the handler, more so if it disturbs or hinders the handler and, even more points should be dropped if the dog leans and touches the handler.

**Caution on the part** of the handler is allowed when walking backwards. Not more than 1-2 points should be dropped, if the heelwork during walking backwards is not quite perfect.

**EXERCISE 3.4                      Stand, sit and down under march                      [Coeff. 3]**

**Commands:**                      “Heel”, “Stand”/ “Sit”/ “Down”, “**Come**”, “**Heel**”  
**No hand signals**

**Performance:**                      *The exercise starts from a stop and the steward clearly announces “Start of exercise 3.4 or start of positions”. The exercise is performed according to the enclosed figures. The taking of positions can be integrated at any point during the heelwork, but must be done together, one after another with a short heelwork between (4 – 5 meters). One of the positions must include a recall. The judge will decide before the competition which two positions of the three (stand, sit, down) are to be done and the order in which the positions are done, what the scheme will be, and which position includes the recall.*

*The competitors will be informed of the positions and layout of the exercise before the competition. All phases of the exercise are done on the instruction of the steward. The details of the exercise, also the turns of the handler, the speed/pace of the handler before and after leaving the dog in position, etc. must be clearly illustrated. The pace of the handler, before and after leaving the dog is typically normal pace. Fast pace can be used as well, and it is recommended to be used in e.g. championship competitions, or similar competitions of rank.*

*The positions, order of positions and scheme should be the same for all competitors.*

*When the handler has stopped with the dog being in heel position and the steward has announced the start of exercise 3.4 /positions, the handler starts off on instruction of the steward. After an approximately 4-5 metres walk at normal pace (or fast pace), the steward instructs the handler to command the first position (stand/sit/down) and the handler leaves the dog continuing at normal pace (or fast pace). Having left the dog, the handler can be asked during his/her walk to take a left turn, a right turn, about turn or/and a stop, or to recall the dog, or a combination of these.*

*Alternatives after the handler has left the dog in position:*

*1. Return to the dog /take the dog along*

*2. Recall the dog or vice versa*

*1. Return to the dog*

*1.1 The handler walks away from the dog in a straight line a distance of approximately 4-5 metres, the handler turns around and/or stops on steward's command, returns passing the dog at a distance of approximately 0,5 m leaving the dog to the left. Having walked past the dog a distance of some 2-3 metres, the handler turns around on command of the steward, walks up towards the dog and having reached the dog stops and commands the dog to heel position or continues without stopping and takes the dog along.*

*1.2 The handler leaves the dog, walking in a straight line for approximately 4-5 metres, after which he/she walks according to the steward's instructions, taking left turns, or right turns, or turnabouts, and returns to the dog as described above.*

*2. Recall the dog*

*2.1 The handler leaves the dog, walking in a straight line the distance of approximately 4-5 metres, stops on the steward's command and turns around on the steward's command /turns around and stops on steward's command. The handler then recalls (only vocal) the dog on the steward's command. An included hand signal drops points. After the dog is in heel position, the steward announces "end of exercise", "start of heelwork /exercise 3", and the heelwork exercise continues.*

*2.2 The handler leaves the dog and according to the steward's instructions, takes left turns, right turns and turnabouts. The handler can be walking in any direction, also behind the dog when the recall is made. The handler continues walking when recalling the dog and continues to walk a few metres with the dog.*

The steward announces a stop and “heelwork continues” or “end of exercise 3.4 /end of exercises /end of both exercises”

The recall can be done in several ways so that the handler for example

- stops and turns around and makes a normal recall or
- turns around, stops and makes a normal recall or
- is in motion walking away from the dog and does the recall as in the box exercise.
- turns around and walks back towards the dog, passes the dog and recalls it.

The steward announces the beginning of the heelwork (for positions). The steward instructs the handler when to start, when to command the dog to stand/sit/ down, which route to walk, when to turn left or right, when to turn around, when to call the dog into heel position and when to stop.

The steward announces “end of the first part of this exercise”. They continue with the heelwork. Having walked some 4-5 metres, the 2nd scheme with the next position is commanded by the steward as described above.

The exercise (3.4) ends after the second position when the steward has given a stop command, and the dog is in heel position and the steward has announced “end of exercise 3.4 /end of exercise positions”. They continue with the heelwork /or both exercises have ended.

It is advised that the steward informs the handler if he/she should take the dog along when passing it from behind or pass the dog and continue to walk without the dog.

#### Directions for judging

The short distances of heelwork are also judged and included in the awarded points. To get points for this exercise 3.4 at least one of the two positions has to be taken correctly. If the dog misses one of the positions, no more than 8 can be awarded, and if the dog misses both positions, the exercise is failed.

The dog misses a position, if

- it takes the wrong position,
- it moves more than one body length after the command
- it resumes moving more than one body length having stopped once,
- clearly starts off before recall.
- the handler gives a second command
- strong hand signals or strong body language are used on the position.

If the dog fails completely to stop at a position, has not stopped before the handler has moved a total distance of 4 m, taken a turn, stopped or turned around, the position is failed.

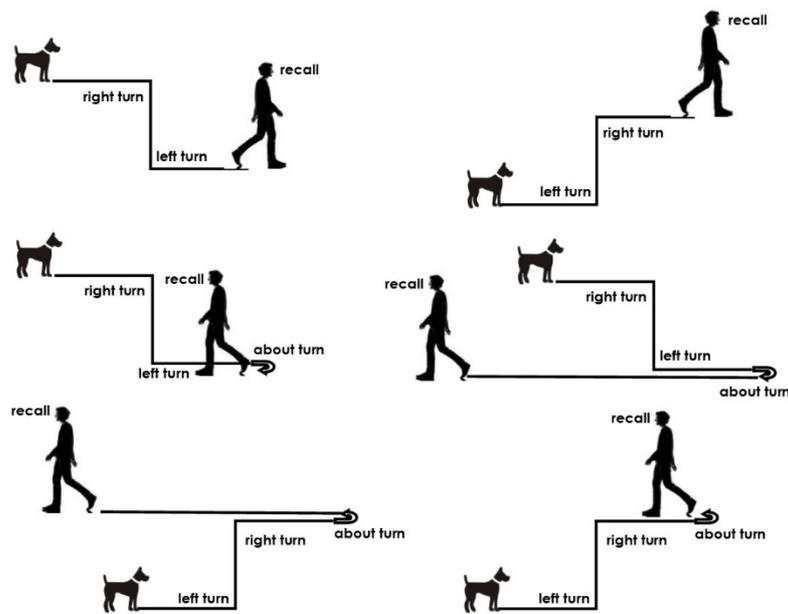
**The position is failed, if the dog leaves its position and runs to the handler before recall.**

**If the dog takes the correct position, but does not respond to the recall (two recalls), no more than 6 can be awarded. A second recall or a hand signal on the recall drops 2 points.**

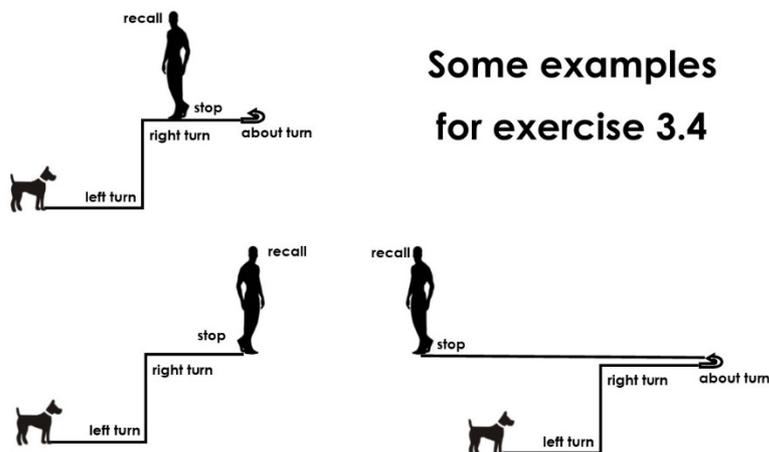
**In judging, attention should be paid to the starting point, the heelwork before the stops, taking of positions, connecting with the handler after the stops. The heelwork before the position should be in the same tempo as the other parts of the heelwork, i.e. no slowing down or speeding up before the stops.**

**Moving, standing/sitting/lying down slowly, not taking straight positions, bad heelwork, changing pace, rounded corners (also of handler) and not keeping the correct course and turning to look at the dog are mistakes. The reduction for such mistakes should be 1-5 points.**

**No extra commands are allowed on the positions. These will fail the position. Hand signals, body language on the stand/sit/down commands and looking back at the dog are grave mistakes, will severely reduce points (1-5 points). Depending on their strength and duration they can fail the position.**



Some examples for exercise 3.4



**See also Appendix 3 for suggestions of schemes. Appendix 3 also includes guidelines for the stewards.**

### **EXERCISE 3.5**

### **Recall with stand and down**

**[Coeff. 3]**

#### **Commands:**

“Down”, “Stay”, “Come” (3 times), “Stand”, “Sit” “Down” and hand signals.

**The handler must use voice commands in all parts of the exercise, but is allowed to use hand signals for the stops in connection with the voice commands.** [Hand signals: one hand or both hands may be used]

#### **Performance:**

**The alternatives for the stop positions are “stand”, “sit”, “down”. Two positions out of these three alternatives are chosen by the judge. The chosen positions and the order of the positions for the competition are notified at the start of the competition.**

The dog is placed in a down position and the handler walks approx. 30 – 35 m in the indicated direction. On permission from the steward, the handler recalls the dog. When the dog has covered approx. one third of the distance, the handler commands the dog to its first stop position (stand or sit or down). When told, the handler recalls the dog again. Having covered approx. two thirds of the distance, the dog **is commanded to its second stop (one of the two remaining positions).** After the second stop and on permission from the steward, the handler calls the dog to heel position.

**The spots for the stop commands are indicated a few metres aside from the dog’s route by small cones, half-spheres or some other small markers visible to the handler.**

The steward tells the handler only when to recall the dog. The handler gives the stop commands independently at the cones. **Voice commands may be combined with hand signals on the stop commands.**

**All voice commands must be clearly given. Hand signals must be simultaneous with voice commands and may not outlast the voice command.**

The dog’s name may be combined with all the recall commands, but the name and the command must follow each other without a pause between them, so as not to give the impression of two separate commands.

#### **Directions for judging:**

It is important that the dog responds willingly to all recall commands. The dog should move at a good speed and keep its pace, at least a fast trot. Slow movement **and anticipating the stops are mistakes.** The breed should be taken into consideration in judging speed **and stops.** The dog should begin to stop immediately after the command.

When evaluating the stop, the speed of the dog should also be taken into consideration. There can be a slight tolerance in relation to the actual distance for stopping for fast dogs/**heavy dogs**, but not for slow dogs. **This means that** to get full points (for a stop) no more than one body length can be exceeded from the time of command to the stop **no matter how fast the dog is**. **Confronting steps should drop points. A slower dog should be able to do a faster stop. If the dog slides, this is equally a mistake and drops points similarly.**

To obtain any points (for a stop) not more than approximately 3 body lengths can be exceeded. A second recall at the start off or after the positions, drops 2 points, thus if more than 3 recall commands are given, no more than 8 points can be awarded. A third recall on a single position results in failure of the exercise and a total of five recalls fail the exercise.

If the dog misses one position (i.e., does not stop within the limit of approximately three body lengths), no more than 6 points can be awarded. If there is no attempt to stop at one of the positions, no more than 5 points can be awarded. If the dog fails to stop at both positions, or neither of the positions is correct, the exercise is failed (0 points). If the dog stops once in a wrong position, not more than 7 points can be awarded.

If a dog changes a position 2 points should be reduced. If the dog sits or stands up before the first recall command or moves a distance of less than one body length, no more than 8 points can be awarded. If the dog moves more than one body length before the first recall command, the exercise is failed (0 points).

### **EXERCISE 3.6                      Send away with directions, down and recall                      [Coeff. 4]**

**Commands:**                      “Forward”, “Stand”, “Right/left” and hand signal, (“Stand”), “Down”, “Come”.

**Performance:**                      Before starting the exercise, the handler should inform the judge whether he/she will command the dog first to stand, and then to lie down in the square, or to lie down directly in the square. The handler sends the dog into a circle and commands it to stand inside the circle. To get full points, the dog should stand in the circle so that all four feet are inside the circle. The circle is 2 m in radius and its centre is approximately 10 m from the starting point.

The centre of the circle cannot be pointed out in any way. The circumference of the circle should be made visible by marking it at least on 8 points (with short visible pieces of tape, chalk, etc.) or marking the whole circumference. The aim of the markings is only to help the handler and judge to evaluate whether the dog is inside or outside the circle. The marking of the circumference should not be conspicuous to the dog. If the whole circumference is marked, the contrast between the markings and background should be very slight. **Visible** strings, **canvas**, plastic hoses, **etc. which can be clearly seen by the dog** are not allowed.

After the dog has stood approximately 3-4 seconds (inside the circle or on the borderline), the handler directs (handler's decision) the dog to a 3 m x 3 m square at approximately 25 metre's distance (middle of the square) from the starting point.

**The handler may send the dog to the box even if the dog is on the borderline. This will drop points.**

The dog should move in a straight line to the square, and should enter the square from the front.

The square borders, as well as the circumference of the circle, should be situated no less than approximately 3 metres from the borders of the ring. Cones (appr. 10 - 15 cm high) mark the square at each corner. Visible lines (e.g., tape, chalk lines, canvas) should connect the cones on their outer side. **Especially in championship competitions, it should be ensured that no double handling is possible.**

When the dog reaches the square, the handler commands the dog either to stand and then to lie down or directly to lie down. If the dog is commanded to stand, the stand position should be clear and stable and last for approximately 3 seconds, before the down command is given.

When told, the handler walks towards the dog. When the handler has reached a distance of approximately 2 m from the dog (the handler is not directed into the square, however), the handler is told to turn (90°), and after approx. 10 m to turn again and walk towards the starting point. After another 10 m the handler is told to recall the dog while continuing to walk towards the starting point. Having reached the starting point, the handler is told to stop.

The dog should move in a straight line to the circle and to the square, and should enter the square from the front. The angle between the connecting lines of the starting point and the centre of the circle, and between the centre of the circle and the middle of the square, should be 90°. See figures for exercise 6 of Class 3.

#### **Directions for judging:**

The dog's willingness to follow directions and commands, the dog's tempo and straight routes should be emphasised. **Depending on the location of the dog in the circle, the handler can either redirect the dog into the circle or send it to the square.**

**If the dog is completely outside the circle, redirecting the dog into the circle is obligatory.**

**If the dog stands on the borderline, redirecting is optional.**

- **If the dog is completely inside the circle, no points are dropped.**
- **If the dog stands on the borderline of the circle, ½-3 points are dropped.**
- **Three legs inside, max 9 points.**
- **One leg inside, max 7 points. The handler can redirect the dog, and if the dog obeys, only 2 points are dropped: one for the redirecting and one for the stop command.**

- ***If the dog is completely outside, the handler has to redirect the dog into the circle. If the redirecting is successful with one directing command and a stand command, 2 points are dropped, one for the redirecting and one for the stand. If a second redirecting command and stop command has to be given, another 2 points are dropped.***

If the dog enters the square from the side or from the back, ( $\frac{1}{2}$  - 1) points should be reduced. To get 10 points, the handler should not use more than 6 commands during this exercise, the sixth command being a stand command in the square. Another option is to use only the down command when the dog has entered the square, and thus use only five commands. The dog must follow the commands, e.g., if a stand command is given in the square, it must be obeyed, and if a down command is given directly, the down should be immediate.

If the dog stops e.g. at the borderline of the square, and the handler gives a correcting command, a new "stand" command should be given, if the handler has informed that the dog will get the "stand" command before the "down" command in the square. The deduction of points should not be more than -1/command, if the dog's response is quick and clear.

Points are deducted, if the dog acts on its own. This means that e.g. the "stand" command in the circle and "stand" and "down" commands in the square have to be given. If the handler moves forward (takes steps in any direction) while giving the commands, the exercise has failed (0 points). If there is excess action (body language) from the handler, not more than 8 points should be given.

A dog that takes a sitting or down position in the circle, should not be awarded more than 8 points.

***On its way to the square, if the dog goes down outside the square or on the borderline, no redirecting command is allowed and the exercise is failed.*** To get points, the dog may not be outside the markings of the square, except for the tail.

The exercise is failed (0 points), if the dog rises up to sit or stand before the handler's second turn. **No more than 7 points** can be awarded, if the dog rises up (to sit or stand) after the handler's second turn before it is recalled. If the dog moves in the square without rising, no more **than 8 points** can be awarded. If it moves and crosses the border before the steward's command to recall, the exercise is failed (0 points). ***If, however, the dog anticipates the recall command and starts off before handler's command, i.e on the steward's command to recall or slightly after the steward's command, 2-4 points are dropped.***

If the dog moves very slowly, only about 6 points should be awarded.

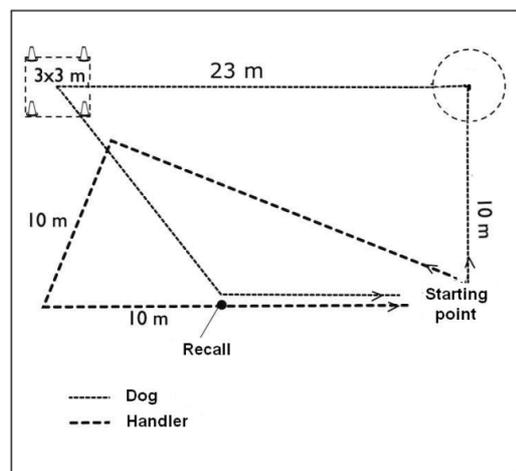
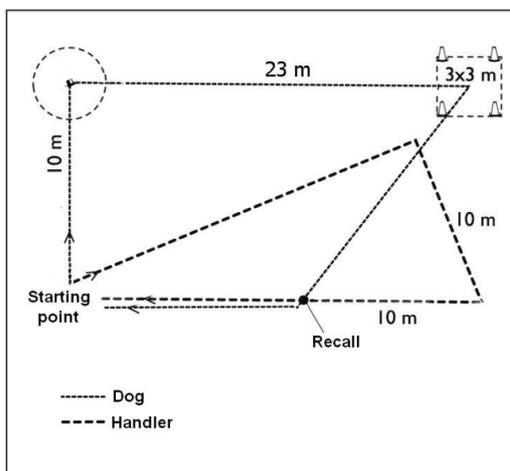
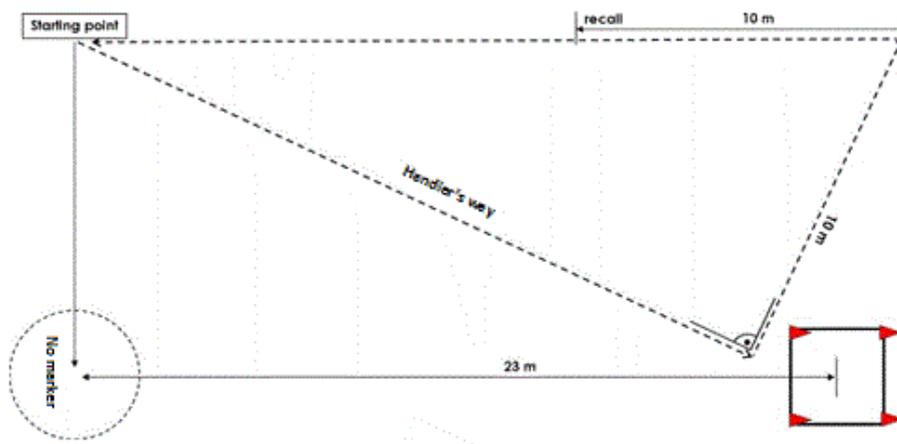
A second recall, stand (both in the circle and in the square), or a down command, causes a deduction of 2 points/command. The exercise is failed, if even one of these commands has to be given a third time.

Hand signals are only allowed if the dog has to be directed/redirected. A hand signal given when the dog is beside the handler, deducts points (-2 p).

The deduction of points for extra directing /redirecting commands, depends on their strength and the dog's willingness to obey the commands. It can be 1-2 points/command.

If the dog takes the wrong position in the square, 3 points are deducted, and if the standing position is not clear 2 points are deducted. The deduction of points for extra directing commands depends on their strength, and the dog's willingness to obey the commands, thus the deduction can be 1-2 points.

Showing the dog directions (e.g. the circle or square), or touching the dog at the starting point, (even before the start of the exercise), will lead to failing the exercise. **One "handtouch" is allowed before the start, but this means that the dog touches the handler and not vice versa, and it may not give any impression of showing places or directions.**



**EXERCISE 3.7****Directed retrieve****[Coeff. 3]**

**Command:** “Forward”, “Stand”, “Right/left/middle” and hand signal, “Retrieve”, “Release”

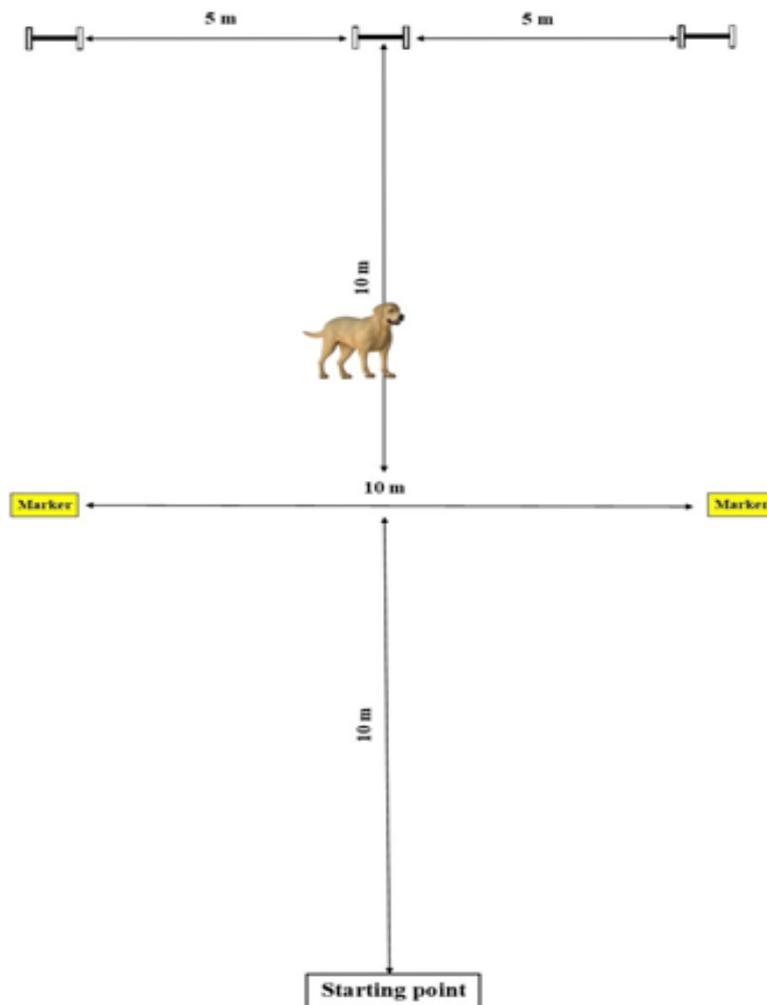
**Performance:** Three wooden dumbbells are placed in a row approximately 5 m apart from each other so that they are easily seen. Which dumbbell should be retrieved, is determined by a closed draw. It can be the left one, middle one or the right one.

The starting point is approximately 20 m from the middle dumbbell. **An imaginary line is drawn 10 m from the starting point, and 10 metres from the row of dumbbells. The handler sends the dog towards the middle dumbbell, and after it has passed the 10-metre line, commands it to stand. The handler can give the stand command at any point after the dog has passed the 10-metre line.**

**The imaginary line is pointed out with 2 little markings approximately 10 metres from each other (with short visible pieces of tape, chalk, small cones, etc.).**

After about 3 second the handler is informed which dumbbell (the right, the left or the middle dumbbell) should be retrieved and the dog should retrieve and deliver the dumbbell correctly. The directing command (right/left/forward) and the retrieve command should follow each other without a break in between, thus a late retrieve command will be interpreted as a second command.

The steward places the three dumbbells **in the same order (from left to right or right to left) and same position for all competitors.** The dumbbells should be placed at least 3 m from the borders of the ring. During this procedure the handler and the dog stand at the starting point facing the central dumbbell at a distance of approximately 20 m. See figure for exercise 7 of Class 3.



**Directions for judging:**

Emphasis should be on the dog's willingness to follow the directive commands and stop command, the dog's tempo and its taking the shortest way to the correct dumbbell. To obtain points for this exercise, the dog should stand between the imaginary line and the central dumbbell.

The reduction for extra directing /redirecting commands depends on their strength and the dog's willingness to obey the commands. It can be 1-2 points/command.

If the dog goes to the wrong dumbbell and is stopped and redirected to the correct one and the dog brings the correct one, 3 points should be deducted. If the dog is redirected from the wrong dumbbell without a stop, 2 points should be deducted.

If the dog picks up the wrong dumbbell, the exercise is failed (0 points).

*For dropping the dumbbell and for chewing or biting on the dumbbell, see the general guidelines for judging exercises.*

### **EXERCISE 3.8      **Send round a cone, positions, retrieving and jumping a hurdle****

**[Coeff. 4]**

**Commands:**                    “Round“, “Stand/Sit/down“ and hand signal – “right/left + retrieve“ and hand signal – “Jump“ – “Release“, (“Heel“)

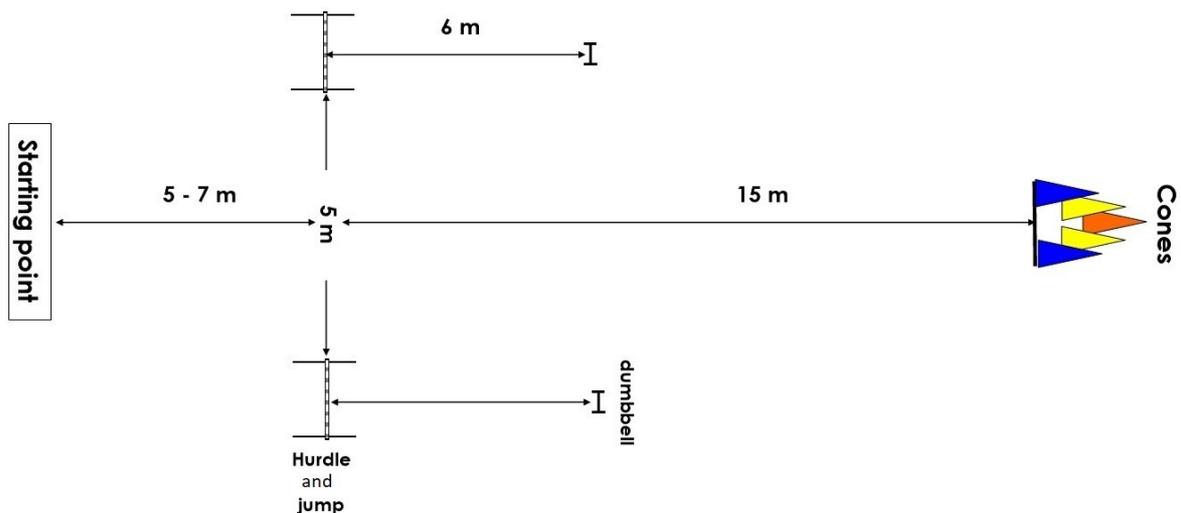
**Description:**                Before the competition starts, the judge will determine which position (stand/sit/down) the dog should take on its way back to the handler. The position is the same for all competitors in the competition. The handler (or steward or judge) should draw the direction (right/left) from which the dog has to retrieve the dumbbell and jump the corresponding hurdle. Thus this determines whether it will be the open hurdle or the closed one. The handler will not be told the direction at this stage. The handler will get the information when the dog has taken its position stand/sit/down. The dumbbells should always be placed in the same order (from right to left or from left to right) in a competition, regardless of which dumbbell should be brought.

***A group of cones (3-6) or a barrel (both approximately 40-50 cm high) are placed at a distance of approximately 15 metres from the connecting line of the hurdles. The diameter of the barrel should be approximately 70-80 cm and the 3-6 cones should cover the corresponding area. The area should thus be 0,4 – 0,5 m<sup>2</sup>. It is recommended to place the cones according to the attached figure. The cones/barrel should be placed before the handler stands at the starting point and the handler should not see the placing of the cones/barrel. In championship competitions cones are always used.***

***Two hurdles (one closed with planks and one open) with a bar) are situated approximately 15 metres from the barrel/group of cones and 5 metres from each other. The height of the hurdles should not be more than 60 cm.***

***The starting point can be chosen by the handler from between 5-7 metres before the hurdle. The dumbbells are placed 6 metres from the hurdles. See Figure.***

There should be three different sizes of wooden dumbbells available, suitable for different breeds. The weight of the largest should be max 450 g. The size of the dumbbells should be in proportion to the size of the dog but the handler is free to choose the size.



**Figures for the recommended construction of all hurdles are at the end of these guidelines in Part VII, Appendix 1.1 & 1.2 and suggestions for patterns of the cones are in Appendix 4.**

**Performance:** The handler stands with the dog in heel position at the starting point (5-7 metres from the hurdles, handler's choice). The steward announces the start of the exercise and walks to place the dumbbells **approximately 6 metres** behind the hurdles.

On instruction, the handler sends the dog to run round the cone. **The ideal is not to do a close (tight) turn round the cones /barrel. Depending on breed, approximately 30 - 70 cm is a suitable distance.** When the dog has clearly passed around the cone and returned back towards the handler approximately 2 metres, but not passed the imaginary line connecting the dumbbells, the handler commands (independently) the dog to stop in the position that was determined by the judge. A voice command and a simultaneous hand signal may be given. After about 3 seconds, the steward informs the handler which direction was drawn and instructs the handler to command the dog to retrieve the correct dumbbell, and to jump the correct corresponding hurdle and return to heel position. **The steward's instruction is "left/right or open/closed" and ..... "command". Thus, the handler should wait for the steward's word "command" before sending the dog.**

### **Directions for judging:**

Emphasis should be on the dog's willingness to follow the commands and directions, the dog's tempo and its taking a reasonably short way, **but leaving a suitable distance from the cones/barrel. Symmetry and focusing towards the middle line/handler when returning before the stop, are also valued.** The dog has to show a good and consistent speed, at least a fast trot. Slow working will reduce points (1-5). The breed has to be taken into consideration when judging the speed **and distance that the dog leaves between the cones/barrel.**

The dog should obey the commands immediately. **If the dog turns back before the cones/barrel, it has to be redirected to circle round the cones/barrel. This drops 2 points for a second command.**

The exercise is failed (0 points), if the dog does not **go round the cones/barrel.** The handler has two directing commands (-1 point for each additional command if the dog obeys). After the dog has gone around the cone it should take the correct position (stand/sit/down) on command.

To obtain points for this exercise, the dog must remain in its position (stand/sit/down) until it gets the command to continue with the exercise. A dog that takes the wrong position cannot get more than 8 points.

The handler **is informed which hurdle must be jumped (open hurdle/closed hurdle) and which dumbbell must be retrieved** when the dog has taken its position (stand/sit/down). **The dog should start off only after the steward has said "open/closed .....command" and the handler has given the command.** The handler is allowed to give a jump command after the dog has picked up the dumbbell. If the dog passes the connecting lines of the dumbbells without having picked up the correct dumbbell, the exercise is failed (0 points).

If the dog goes to the wrong dumbbell (or hurdle) and is stopped and redirected (two commands) to the correct one and the dog brings the correct one, 3 points should be deducted. If the dog is redirected from the wrong dumbbell (or hurdle) without a stop, 2 points should be deducted.

The reduction of points for extra directing commands depends on their strength and the dog's willingness to obey the commands. It can be 1-2 points/command. The reduction of points for other extra commands should be congruent with the general directions.

**If the dog touches or collides with a cone or the barrel, 1 - 3 points are deducted, depending on forcefulness/ intensity of the collision. If the dog knocks over a cone / cones, 2-3 points are deducted. If the dog runs between the set of cones 3 points are deducted.**

If the dog jumps the hurdle on the way to the cone, the exercise is failed (0 points).

If the dog picks up the wrong dumbbell or does not jump the hurdle or jumps the wrong hurdle, the exercise is failed (0 points).

If the dog touches the hurdle when jumping, 2 points should be reduced.

If the dog drops the bar of the open hurdle, not more than 2 points should be deducted either.

If the dog supports itself on the hurdle, the exercise is failed (0 points).

If the hurdle falls over, the exercise is failed (0 points).

The exercise is failed, if the handler gives the stop command (stand-sit-down) too early, i.e. when the dog is still beside the cone.

If the handler stops the dog too early, but so that it has clearly passed the cone (at least one metre) 2 points should be reduced.

If the dog anticipates the commands, 2-4 points should be deducted. If it acts independently (i.e. stops slightly before command) 2 points should be reduced.

If the dog stops independently (without a command, clearly too early), it should be recalled and stopped again. No more than 6 can be awarded.

Showing the dog directions or touching the dog at the starting point will lead to failing the exercise (0 points).

*For dropping the dumbbell and for chewing or biting on the dumbbell see the general guidelines for judging exercises.*

### **EXERCISE 3.9**                      **Scent discrimination and retrieve**                      **[Coeff. 3]**

**Commands:**                      (“Stay/heel”), “Seek”, “Release” (“Heel” )

**Performance:**                      The handler stands at the starting point with the dog in heel position and the steward announces the start of the exercise and gives the handler a wooden retrieve object (10 cm x 2 cm x 2 cm), which has been marked beforehand with some identification. The handler can keep the marked object in her/his hands for approximately 5 sec. The dog is not allowed to touch or scent the object at this stage. The steward tells the handler to hand over the object and to turn around. The handler decides whether the dog does or does not see when the objects are positioned. Heel or stay commands are allowed. The steward walks to place the handler’s object, without touching it, together with 5-7 similar objects on the ground or floor at a distance of about 10 metres from the handler. The steward places the other five to seven objects by hand, and thus touches them.

***The pattern in which the objects are placed can vary from one competition to another. See suggestions in Appendix 2. The objects should be placed in the same pattern for all competitors in the same competition and approximately 25 cm apart. There are no restrictions to placing the handler’s object within the chosen pattern, the position must, however, randomly vary from one dog to another. The place can also be drawn.***

The handler is then told to turn around and to command the dog to retrieve the handler's marked object. The dog should find the handler's object, retrieve it and deliver it to the handler in accordance with the general directions.

The dog should be allowed to work approximately half a minute, if the working is active and goal driven. **Each competitor should have new objects.**

**Directions for judging:**

Emphasis should be on the dog's willingness to work and its tempo. The exercise is failed (0 points), if the dog is allowed to scent or touch the object at the beginning of the exercise before it is handed back to the steward, if commands are given when the dog is at the objects, or if the dog picks up the wrong object. The exercise is not failed if the dog scents the objects when looking for the correct one.

*For dropping the object and for chewing or biting on the object see the general guidelines for judging exercises.*

**EXERCISE 3.10**

**Distance control**

**[Coeff. 4]**

**Commands:** "Down" "Stay", "Sit", "Stand", "Down" and hand signals.

**Performance:** The dog should change positions 6 times (sit / stand / down) according to the handler's commands and remain in its original place. A boundary is formed behind the dog by an imaginary line connecting two markers. The handler commands, when instructed, his/her dog to lie down at the starting point in front of the boundary. The handler leaves the dog, and moves on to the assigned place approx. 15 m from the dog, and turns around. The order of taking the positions can vary, but should be the same for all competitors. Each position should be done twice and the last command for changing position should be "down". The steward shows the handler in which order the dog should change positions, by written signs or drawings, or by an electric display board. The steward should stand approximately 3-5 metres from the dog and so that he/she is not able to see the dog when displaying the instructions for position changes. The steward should change the sign about every 3 seconds. The handler may use both voice commands and hand signals, but the commands must be short and used simultaneously. After the last down command, when instructed, the handler returns to the dog and commands it to sit.

**Directions for judging:**

Emphasis should be on the speed at which the positions are changed, the clearness of the positions and how well the positions are held, and how much the dog moves. To get any points, the dog should not move in total more than its body length in any direction from the starting point. Distances for all movements are added together (back and forth, sideways, etc.).

If the dog misses one position of the six, no more than 7 points should be given. However, if the dog jumps over one position and takes the next position, the exercise is failed (0 points). The dog has to change positions at least 5 times on command to get points.

If the dog sits up before the handler returns, no more than 8 points should be awarded. Extensive use of voice and exaggerated or continuous / long-lasting hand signals drop points. (See general rules.)

No more than 8 points can be awarded, if the dog has to have two commands on a position change. Disobeying a second command on a position leads to missing that position. The first extra command on a position is thus -2 points and the next ones are -1 point.

It is possible to get points for this exercise even if 3 – 4 of the positions have been achieved only after an extra command, provided that the extra commands are obeyed immediately, and lead to good, clear positions, and the exercise is otherwise **performed well according to description.**

## VII

## APPENDIX

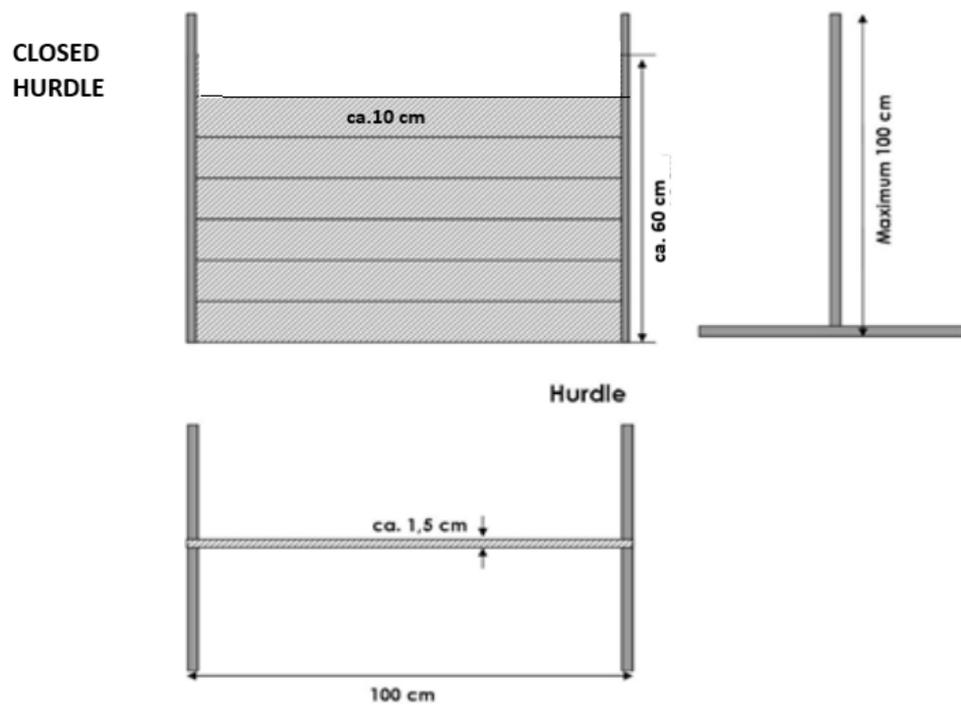
### APPENDIX 1.1

#### Hurdle

**Figure of the hurdles of Exercise 8 in Class 1, Exercise 9 in Class 2 and Exercise 8 in Class 3.**

The maximum height for Classes 1 & 2 is 50 cm and for Class 3 the maximum height is **60 cm**.

The sidebars should be approximately 1 m high. The feet of the hurdle should be such that the hurdle is stable. The feet of the hurdle should, depending on the construction, be at least 50-70 cm long.



## APPENDIX 1.2

### Jump

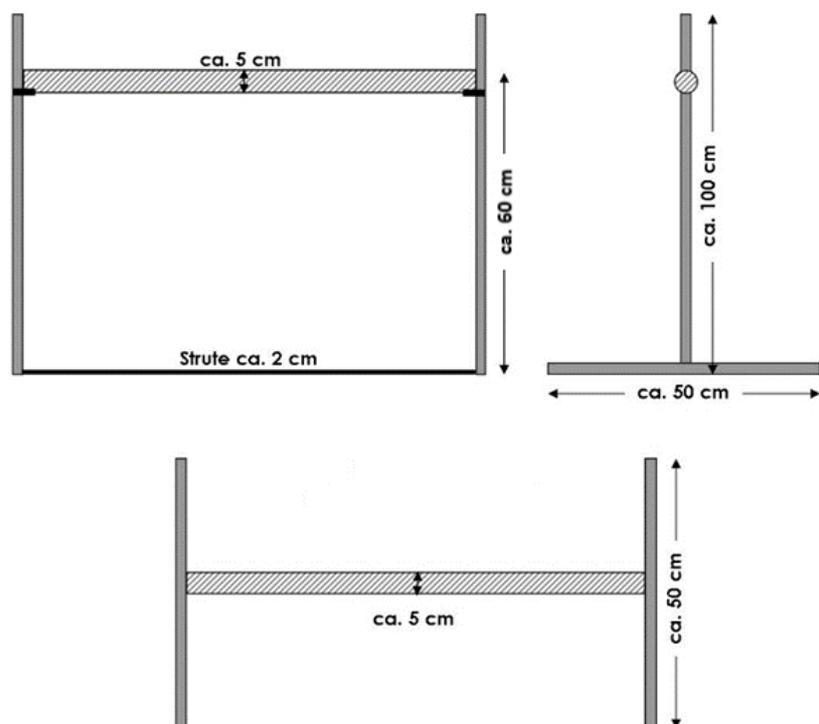
Figure of the open hurdles of

- **Exercise 9 in Class 2 and**
- **Exercise 8 in Class 3.**

The maximum height for Class 2 is 50 cm and for Class 3 the maximum height **is 60 cm.**

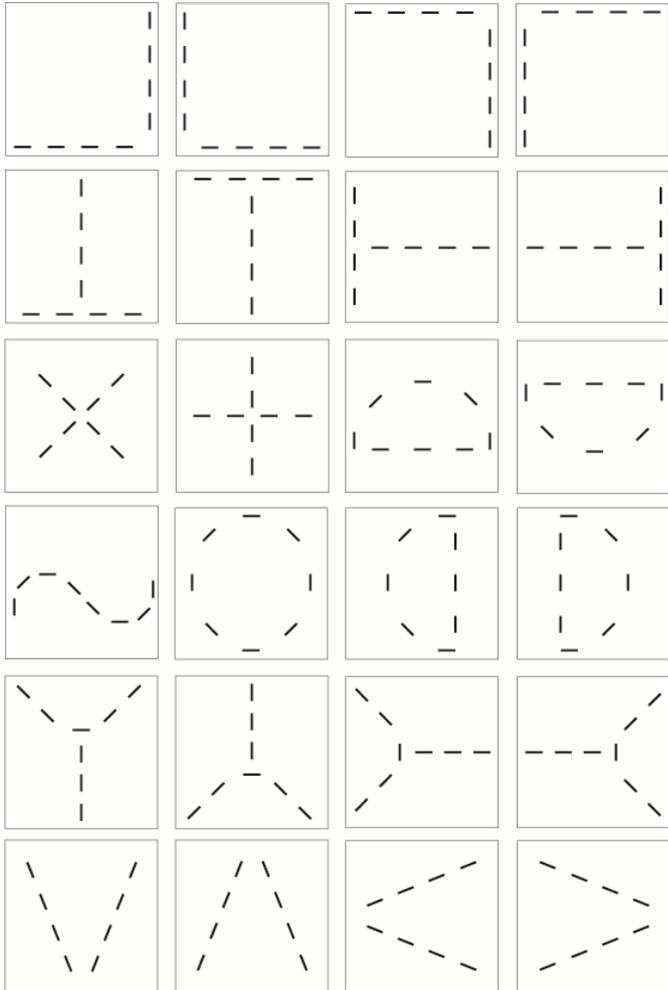
The bar lies freely, so that it can drop down to either side. There can be a connecting thin bar at the bottom, not more than 2 cm high from the ground. It is recommended that the supports of the bar are concave, so that the wind does not drop the bar easily. There should not be any extra supports for the bar, only the ones on which the bar lies.

#### OPEN JUMP



APPENDIX 2

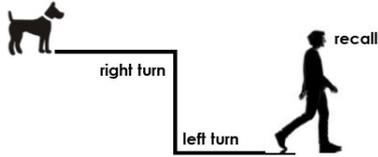
Some suggestions for displaying the objects *in scent discrimination in Class 3*



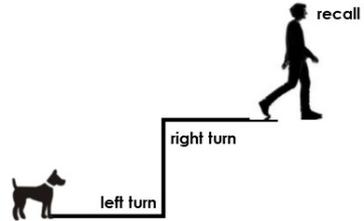
**APPENDIX 3** *Schemes for positions under march and guidelines concerning stewards'*

**commands**

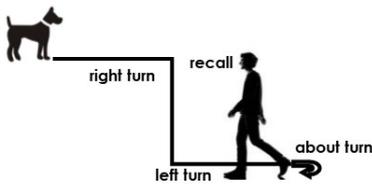
**Class 3**



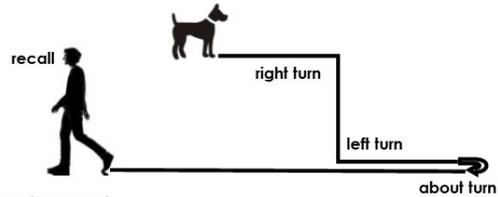
**Stewards command:**  
Exercise positions under march starts:  
normal pace forward, command, right turn, left turn, call your dog.



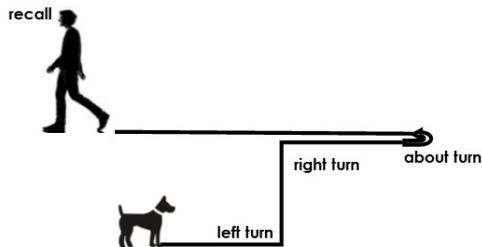
**Stewards command:**  
Exercise positions under march starts:  
normal pace forward, command, left turn, right turn, call your dog.



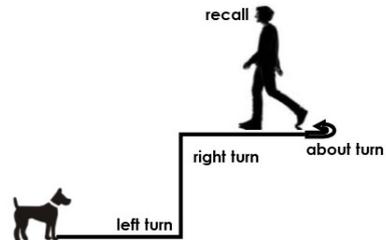
**Stewards command:**  
Exercise positions under march starts:  
normal pace forward, command, right turn, left turn, about turn, call your dog.



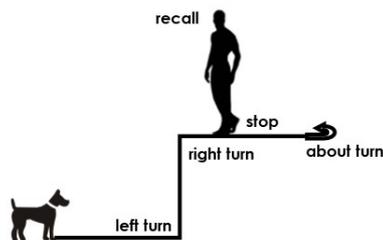
**Stewards command:**  
Exercise positions under march starts:  
normal pace forward, command, right turn, left turn, about turn, call your dog.



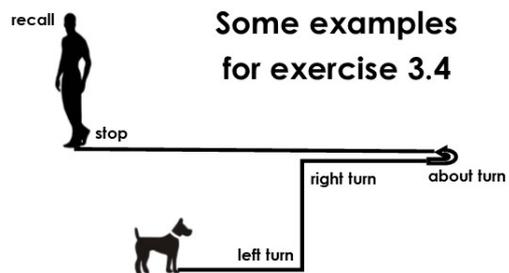
**Stewards command:**  
Exercise positions under march starts:  
normal pace forward, command, left turn, right turn, about turn, call your dog.



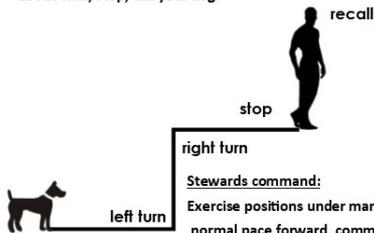
**Stewards command:**  
Exercise positions under march starts:  
normal pace forward, command, left turn, right turn, about turn, call your dog.



**Stewards command:**  
Exercise positions under march starts:  
normal pace forward, command, left turn, right turn, about turn, stop, call your dog.



**Stewards command:**  
Exercise positions under march starts:  
normal pace forward, command, left turn, right turn, about turn, stop, call your dog.



**Stewards command:**  
Exercise positions under march starts:  
normal pace forward, command, left turn, right turn, stop, call your dog.

**Some examples for exercise 3.4**

## APPENDIX 4

Patterns for the group of cones in all exercises «Go round a group of cones »

Ex 8, Class 1

Ex 9, Class 2

Ex 8, Class 3

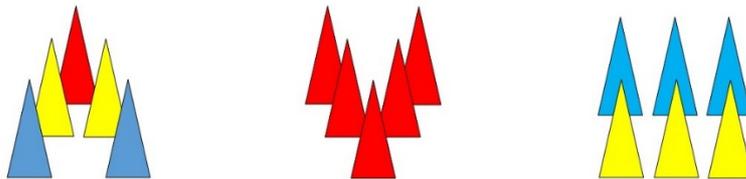
These are suggestions. It is important that the area demand is fulfilled i.e. both width and depth should be approximately 70 – 80 cm.

In all championship competitions a group of cones must be used. A barrel may be used in ordinary trials.

The width and depth of the group of cones should be approximately 70 – 80 cm. The height should be 40-50 cm.

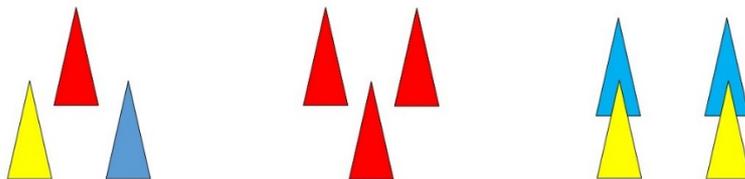
With the assumption that the base of a cone is some 25 cm X 25 cm, we get 75 cm when placing three cones together side by side /after each other. This leaves a possibility to have a space of some 2-3 cm between the cones.

Placing two cones (four cones making a square) the space between the cones can be some 20 cm.



Patterns for the group of cones

The area of the cones should cover 0,4 – 0,5 m<sup>2</sup>,  
the height of the cone approximately 40 - 50 cm



Alternatively barrel

Diameter of approximately 70 - 80 cm

