

CRUFTS DOG SHOW
INTER-REGIONAL OBEDIENCE COMPETITION 2014

Competition Guidelines

An obedience competition between 7 teams - one each from:

Scotland
Northern Ireland
North
Midlands
Wales
South East and East Anglia
South and South West

Region	Counties included
Scotland	All counties in Scotland
Northern Ireland	All counties in Northern Ireland, Isle of Man
North	Durham, Cleveland, Tyne & Wear, Northumberland, Humberside, South, West and North Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cumbria, Cheshire and Merseyside
Midlands	Nottinghamshire, West Midlands, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Derbyshire and Rutland
Wales	All counties in Wales
South East and East Anglia	Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, East and West Sussex, Surrey, Greater London, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Berkshire and Middlesex.
South and South West	Herefordshire, Somerset, Avon, Wiltshire, Devon, Cornwall, Dorset and Gloucestershire

Teams to consist of:-

One dog per level equivalent to Beginner, B and C, two dogs per level equivalent to Novice and A, plus a reserve (Beginner level) making a total of 8 dogs per team.

All dogs selected must be eligible to compete for the level they are chosen at the closing date.

Each dog selected must be capable of moving up to the next class should a dog withdraw from the competition after the closing date for submission of team details. The Beginner reserve dog will then compete at the basic level.

There will be no more than;

2 Border Collies or Working Sheepdogs
3 Crossbreeds (one of which must not be a Collie/Working Sheepdog type)
3 of any other single breed.

1 Owners of dogs should be resident in a county in the area they represent.

2 In the event of a tie, the Class C dogs will run off to decide the winning team.

NB: there will be no run off in individual classes – in the event of a tie both winners will receive winning points.

3 Obedience Champions cannot compete.

4 Competitors in the Crufts Obedience Championships 2014 cannot compete.

5 Closing date for eligibility is the last day of October 2013.

6 Medals and an Award will be presented to the winning team and the runners-up. In addition prize cards will be presented to the first 4 places in each class.

The Tests

Inter-Regional Beginner Class

a. To compete in this class handlers must be eligible for the Beginner Class in Kennel Club Obedience Regulations G at the closing date for entries

b. Tests may be carried out in any order, at judge's discretion, except as specified, but the order shall be the same for each dog.

c. Handlers will not be penalised for encouragement or extra commands except on the Down test. In this test at the discretion of the Judge, handlers may face their dogs. Judges and Stewards must not use the words "last command" except in the Down test.

d. The detailed tests will be:

- i. Heel on Lead. The dog should be sitting straight at the handler's side. On command the handler should walk briskly forward in a straight line with the dog at heel. The dog's shoulder should be approximately level with and reasonably close to the handler's leg at all times when the handler is walking. The lead should be slack at all times. On the command to turn, the handler should turn smartly in the direction indicated and the dog should keep its position at the handler's side. Turning manoeuvres must not be coupled together. The handler and dog must be allowed several paces if required to turn again. On the command "Halt" the handler should halt immediately, and the dog should sit straight at the handler's side. Throughout the test the handler may not touch the dog or make use of the lead without penalty. Heelwork may include large circles or arcs as part of the heelwork exercise. The only permissible turns are turns of 90 degrees to the left or right and 180 degrees about turns to the right. 15 points
- ii. Recall from Sit or Down position at handler's choice. Dog to be recalled by handler when stationary and facing the dog. Dog to return smartly to handler, sit in front, go to heel - all on command of Judge or Steward to handler. Distance at discretion of Judge. Test commences when handler leaves dog. 10 points
- iii. Retrieve any article. Handlers may use their own article. At the start of this exercise the dog should be sitting at the handler's side. On command the handler must throw the dumb-bell/article in the direction indicated. The dog should remain in the Sit position until the handler is ordered to send it to retrieve the dumb-bell/article. The dog should move out promptly at a smart pace to collect the dumb-bell/article cleanly. It should return with the dumb-bell/article at a smart pace and sit straight in front of the handler. On command the handler should take the dumb-bell/article from the dog. On further command the dog should be sent to heel. 25 points
- iv. Control at Gate Exercise. Walk on lead through gate with the dog under control. Handler to start exercise with dog in the sit, down or stand position. Dog to wait while handler opens gate and walks through the gate. Handler to then recall dog through the gate on

lead. Dog to then wait in stand, sit or down position, while handler secures the gate. The dog should not pull or be pulled through the gate. Marks must be deducted for anticipation, tight lead or lack of control. 15 points

- v. Stay Down one minute, handler in sight 10 points

Total 75 points

Inter-Regional Novice Class

a. To compete in this class handlers must be eligible for the Novice Class in Kennel Club Obedience Regulations G at the closing date for entries

b. Tests may be carried out in any order, at judge's discretion, except as specified, but the order shall be the same for each dog.

c. Handlers will not be penalised for encouragement or extra commands except on the Down test. In this test at the discretion of the Judge, handlers may face their dogs. Judges and Stewards must not use the words "last command" except in the Down test.

d. The detailed tests will be:

- i. Heel Free. The dog must be off the lead throughout this test. The dog should be sitting straight at the handler's side. On command the handler should walk briskly forward in a straight line with the dog at heel. The dog's shoulder should be approximately level with and reasonably close to the handler's leg at all times when the handler is walking. On the command to turn, the handler should turn smartly in the direction indicated and the dog should keep its position at the handler's side. Turning manoeuvres must not be coupled together. The handler and dog must be allowed several paces if required to turn again. On the command "Halt" the handler should halt immediately, and the dog should sit straight at the handler's side. Throughout the test the handler may not touch the dog without penalty. Heelwork may include large circles or arcs as part of the heelwork exercise. The only permissible turns are turns of 90 degrees to the left or right and 180 degrees about turns to the right. Diagonal turns to the right are permissible. 30 points
- ii. Recall from Sit or Down position at handler's choice. Dog to be recalled by handler when stationary and facing the dog. Dog to return smartly to handler, sit in front, go to heel - all on command of Judge or Steward to handler. Distance at discretion of Judge. Test commences when handler leaves dog. 15 points
- iii. Retrieve a dumbbell over Hurdle
Hurdle set at 37.5 cm (15")
This exercise must not be the first exercise in the order of work, but must take place after at least one other exercise. Handlers may use their own dumbbell. At the start of this exercise the dog should be sitting at the handler's side approximately 3 metres from the hurdle. The handler will be requested to throw the dumbbell over the hurdle. The handler will then be requested to send the dog to retrieve the dumbbell. The dog should move out promptly at a smart pace to collect the dumbbell. In retrieving the dumbbell the dog should jump the hurdle on the outward and return leg of the exercise. The dog should present the dumbbell to the handler and finish. 25 points
- iv. Stay Down two minutes, handler in sight 20 points

Total 90 points

Inter-Regional Class A

- a. To compete in this class handlers must be eligible for Class A in Kennel Club Obedience Regulations G at the closing date for entries
- b. Tests may be carried out in any order, at judge's discretion, except as specified, but the order shall be the same for each dog.
- c. Simultaneous command and signal will be permitted. Extra commands or signals must be penalised.
- d. The detailed tests will be:
 - i. Heel Free. The dog must be off the lead throughout this test. The dog should be sitting straight at the handler's side. On command the handler should walk briskly forward in a straight line with the dog at heel. The dog's shoulder should be approximately level with and reasonably close to the handler's leg at all times when the handler is walking. On the command to turn, the handler should turn smartly in the direction indicated and the dog should keep its position at the handler's side. Turning manoeuvres must not be coupled together. The handler and dog must be allowed several paces if required to turn again. On the command "Halt" the handler should halt immediately, and the dog should sit straight at the handler's side. Throughout the test the handler may not touch the dog without penalty. Heelwork may include large circles or arcs as part of the heelwork exercise. The only permissible turns are turns of 90 degrees to the left or right and 180 degrees about turns to the right. Diagonal turns to the right and left are permissible, however it is not acceptable to include left about turns. 35 points
 - ii. Recall from Sit or Down position at handler's choice. Dog to be recalled to heel by handler, on command of Judge or Steward, whilst handler is walking away from dog, both to continue forward until ordered to halt. The recall and halt points to be the same for each dog and handler. Test commences following handler's last command to dog. 15 points
 - iii. Placed Retrieve. Retrieve any one article provided by the Judge but which must not be in any way injurious to the dog (excluding food or glass). The article to be picked up easily by any breed of dog in the Class and to be clearly visible to the dog. A separate similar article to be used for each dog, Following Judge or Stewards "last command" to handler, the handler shall leave the dog and place the article where directed and then continue to a designated point either straight ahead or 90 degrees to the left or right from where the handler will be required to command the dog to retrieve the article and present it to the handler and finish. The designated point shall be at the judges' discretion but shall be the same for all handlers, and the distance between the handler and the article once placed shall be similar to the distance between the article and the dog. 30 points
 - iv. Stay Sit 2 minutes, handler in sight. 10 points
 - v. Scent Discrimination. The handler's scent on a marked cloth supplied by the Judge. There must be a total of 6 scent cloths, this total must not include any decoys, but must include the cloth provided by the judge. These 6 cloths must be set out in a straight line, which may be in any direction. 30 points

Total 120 points

Inter-Regional Class B

a. To compete in this class handlers must be eligible for Class B in Kennel Club Obedience Regulations G at the closing date for entries

b. Tests may be carried out in any order, at judge's discretion, except as specified, but the order shall be the same for each dog.

c. One command by word or signal is permitted, any extra commands and signals must be penalised. However, a simultaneous command and signal is permitted in the Send Away element of the Send Away, Drop and Recall exercise.

d. The detailed tests will be:

- i. Heel free. The dog shall be required to walk at heel free and shall also be tested at fast and slow pace. Each change of pace shall commence from the halt position. In this class at normal and slow pace the only permissible turns are turns of 90° to the left or right, 180° about turns to the right or the left and diagonal turns to the right and left. Medium or large circles can be included. At fast-pace the only permissible turns are turns of 90° to the left or right, and 180° about turns to the right. Medium or large circles can be included. 50 points
- ii. Send Away, Drop and Recall. On command of Judge the handler to bring the dog to the place indicated, set up the dog and stand upright. On further command, the handler will send the dog in the direction indicated by the Judge. After the dog has been dropped, handler will call the dog to heel whilst walking where directed by the Judge and both will continue forward until ordered to halt. No obstacle to be placed in path of dog. Markers, if used, must be stationary and contain no moving parts. Simultaneous command and signal is permitted but as soon as the dog leaves the handler, the arm must be dropped. (N.B. an extra command may be simultaneous command and signal but must be penalised.) 40 points
- iii. Retrieve an article over Hurdle
Hurdle set at 51cm (20") (or lower dependent on height of dog).
This exercise must not be the first exercise in the order of work, but must take place after at least one other exercise. At the start of this exercise the dog should be sitting at the handler's side approximately 3metres from the hurdle. The handler will be requested to throw the article over the hurdle. The handler will then be requested to send the dog to retrieve the article. The dog should move out promptly at a smart pace to collect the article. In retrieving the article the dog should jump the hurdle on the outward and return leg of the exercise. The dog should present the article to the handler and finish.
Hurdle height:
51cm (20") for dogs over 37.5cm (15") at the withers
37.5cm (15") for dogs 37.5cm (15") or less than at the withers
The article to be provided by the Judge but which must not be in any way injurious to the dog (excluding food or glass). The article to be picked up easily by any breed of dog in that Class. A separate similar article to be used for each dog. Test commences following Judge or Stewards words "last command" to handler. 30 points
- iv. Stay Down five minutes, handler out of sight. 30 points
- v. Scent Discrimination. The handler's scent on a marked cloth supplied by the Judge. There must be a minimum of 6 and up to a maximum of 10 scent cloths, the total must include one decoy cloth, and the cloth provided by the Judge. The pattern of cloths is at the Judge's discretion. 40 points

Total 190 points

Inter-Regional Class C

- a. Open to all dogs.
- b. Tests may be carried out in any order, at judge's discretion, except as specified, but the order shall be the same for each dog.
- c. One command by word or signal is permitted, any extra commands and signals must be penalised. However, a simultaneous command and signal is permitted in the Send Away element of the Send Away, Drop and Recall exercise.
- d. The detailed tests will be:
 - i. Heel Work. The dog shall be required to walk at heel free, and also be tested at fast and slow pace. At some time during this test, at the discretion of the Judge, the dog shall be required, whilst walking at heel at normal pace, to be left at the Stand, Sit and Down position in any order (the order to be the same for each dog) as and when directed by the Judge. The handler shall continue forward alone without hesitation, until instructed by the steward to halt and face the dog. At this point the dog shall be required to change position on command to either sit, stand or down as directed (same changes of position for each dog) and then return to the original position before the handler is instructed to continue as directed by the Judge until reaching the dog when both shall continue forward together until halted. During the Distant Control section of the Heelwork positions excessive movement, i.e. more than the body length of the dog in any direction, by the dog, having regard to its size, will be penalised.
Permitted turns: At normal and slow pace the permissible turns are 90° to the left or right, 180° about turns to the left or right, diagonal turns to the left or right, and circles or arcs. At fast pace, the only permissible turns are 90° to the left or right, 180° about turns to the right, and circles or arcs.
Multiple and combination turns: Heelwork patterns may include multiple or combination turns at normal and/or slow pace, provided that such turns, once started, must continue in the same direction and do not exceed a total of 360°. For example, a "double left about turn" or a "left about turn-left turn" is permitted, but a "left about turn-right turn" or an "about turn-left turn" is not. After the completion of a multiple or combination turn, the handler and dog must be allowed several paces before being required to turn again.
Figures of Eight and weaving: Figures of eight and/or weaving between poles/markers may be introduced at normal and/or slow pace. The distance between poles or markers must be sufficient to allow for the largest dog likely to be entered in that class.
Suitability for all breeds entered: Judges must ensure that all manoeuvres can be satisfactorily accomplished by all breeds entered in the class. 80 points
 - ii. Send Away, Drop and Recall. On command of Judge the handler to bring the dog to the place indicated, set up the dog and stand upright. On further command, the handler will send the dog in the direction indicated by the Judge. After the dog has been dropped, handler will call the dog to heel whilst walking where directed by the Judge and both will continue forward until ordered to halt. No obstacle to be placed in path of dog. Markers, if used, must be stationary and contain no moving parts. Simultaneous command and signal is permitted but as soon as the dog leaves the handler, the arm must be dropped. (N.B. an extra command may be simultaneous command and signal but must be penalised.) 40 points
 - iii. Retrieve an article over Hurdle
Hurdle set at 60cm (24") (or lower dependent on height of dog).
This exercise must not be the first exercise in the order of work, but must take place after at least one other exercise. At the start of this exercise the dog should be sitting at the handler's side approximately 3metres from the hurdle. The handler will be requested to throw the article over the hurdle. The handler will then be requested to send the dog to retrieve the article. The dog should move out promptly at a smart pace to collect the article. In retrieving the article the dog should jump the hurdle on the

outward and return leg of the exercise. The dog should present the article to the handler and finish.

Hurdle height:

60cm (24") for dogs 42.5cm (17") and over at the withers.

51cm (20") for dogs over 37.5cm (15") but less than 42.5cm (17") at the withers

37.5cm (15") for dogs 37.5cm (15") or less than at the withers

The article to be provided by the Judge but which must not be in any way injurious to the dog (excluding food or glass). The article to be picked up easily by any breed of dog in that Class. A separate similar article to be used for each dog. Test commences following Judge or Stewards words "last command" to handler. 30 points

- iv. Directed Retrieve. Three articles set out in straight line. The line to be 6m long and a minimum of 4 and maximum of 6 metres from the handler and dog. When the articles are placed the handler and dog will be facing away. Once they have been placed the judge will advise the handler which one the dog has to retrieve and they will then turn and face directly towards the article to be retrieved. The article to be retrieved may vary from dog to dog. The handler is then instructed to send their dog to retrieve the article, present it to the handler and finish. The article to be retrieved by each competitor shall be decided by a random draw (e.g. number drawn from a hat) as the competitor enters the arena. 40 points
- v. Stay Sit two minutes, handler out of sight. 20 points
- vi. Scent Discrimination. The Judge's scent on a marked cloth supplied by the Judge. There must be a minimum of 6 and up to a maximum of 10 scent cloths, this total must include the Judge's scent cloth and a decoy or decoys. The pattern is at the Judge's discretion. 50 points

Total 260 points

Explanatory Notes for Inter-Regional Obedience Tests

A. Stays

The Judge or Steward will direct handlers to positions in the ring. The command "Last Command" will be given and handlers should then instantly give their final command to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs after this "Last Command" will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and walk to positions indicated until ordered to return to them. These are group tests and all dogs must compete together,

- (1) Sit/Stay-Dogs should remain in the Sit position throughout the test.
- (2) Down/Stay-Dogs should remain in the Down position throughout the test

B. Scent Discrimination

- (1) Cloths must be placed in position by a steward and must be at least 1m (3ft) and not more than 1.6m (5ft) apart.
- (2) Method of taking scent: in classes A and B the handler may only give the dog scent from their hand or hands. In Class C the Judge will provide the handler with a cloth carrying the Judge's scent and the method of giving scent from the cloth will be at the handler's discretion, but when providing the cloth the Judge shall not be required to place his hand on or lean towards the dog.
- (3) In Class C, more than one decoy steward may be used, and each decoy steward is permitted to place a maximum of 2 cloths for each dog.
- (4) Decoy stewards must not handle a cloth for longer than the handler in Class B, or the judge in Class C. Cloths must be stored out of reach of the dog whilst not in use.
- (5) Any cloth which is fouled in any way e.g. mouthed, must be replaced with a fresh cloth.
- (6) At the commencement of the test the dog must be brought to a designated point. The dog must be facing away from the cloths while scented/decoy cloths are placed in position. When the cloths have been placed, the handler must give the dog scent, stand up straight and send the dog on command from the judge or steward to find the correct cloth. The dog, on finding the correct cloth must then complete the test as for the Retrieve Test.
- (7) Limiting the time for this test is at the judge's discretion.

C. Retrieve over a Hurdle

- (1) Dogs will not be measured but in the case of a dispute on the height of the dog the decision of the jump height for that dog will be made by the Obedience Chief Steward and will be final
- (2) The jump will be of solid non collapsible type with removable slats to achieve the three jump heights.

D. Directed retrieve

- (1) The article used shall be different to that used for the retrieve over a hurdle in class C

The gate for the Beginner Exercise and the Hurdle for retrieve will be provided on the day by the Kennel Club