

THE STEWARD IN OBEDIENCE

General Overview

- Stewards must keep in mind that they have been selected to help the judges and NOT advise them.
- When not actively engaged in their duties, stewards should position themselves so that they will not interfere with the judging of the dogs.
- Under NO CIRCUMSTANCE should a steward give information or instructions to owner's or handler's unless specifically instructed to do so by the judge, and then they should do so only in such a manner that it is clear that the instructions are those of the judge (THIS MEANS NO TALKING TO OWNER'S OR HANDLER'S WAITING TO ENTER THE RING).

Gate Steward

- The primary responsibility of the gate steward is to ensure that the next dog to be judged is immediately available when the judge indicates that they are ready.
- The Gate Steward is responsible for ensuring the judging time is not delayed by having the judge wait for the next dog.

Table Steward

- The steward must receive specific instructions from the judge to determine what will be required as the Table Steward.
- The steward should ensure that the class, proper arm band number, and breed of dog are correctly entered on the worksheet. THE JUDGE – AND ONLY THE JUDGE WILL TRANSFER THE SCORES FROM THE WORKSHEET TO THE JUDGES' BOOK.
- The table steward must review the catalog to see what trophies (if any) are offered and to ensure that all trophies and ribbons are available at the end of judging.

Ring Steward

EACH JUDGE REQUIRES TWO RING STEWARDS

NOVICE CLASS

- The two ring stewards are required to act as “posts” around which the dog and handler will execute the figure eight.
- Stewards should go to the assigned position most often after the judge gives the order, “Exercise finished” for the Heel on Leash exercise.
- The stewards stand 8 feet apart, facing each other, with their hands FOLDED in FRONT. (Hands should not be placed on hips or in any way extended from the body.)
- Stewards do NOT talk or move while this exercise is being performed. Stewards must resist the temptation to turn their head to watch the dog’s performance.

THERE WILL BE A THIRD “LEASH” STEWARD AVAILABLE TO TAKE THE LEASH FROM THE HANDLER AFTER COMPLETION OF THE FIGURE EIGHT EXERCISE. ONCE THE STEWARD HAS THE LEASH THEY MUST MOVE OUT OF THE EXERCISE AREA.

ALL stewards must be ready to follow whatever instructions the judge may give.

OPEN CLASS

- The requirements of the steward in the Open Class are the same as in the Novice Class, and stewards should be immediately available when the order is given for the Figure Eight.
- The gate steward should record in the catalog beside the armband number the height and distance of the dog jumps as stated by the handler. They will also line up the dogs and handlers outside the ring immediately prior to the time the judge has called for the Long Sit and the Long Down exercises.
- For the Retrieve on Flat and Retrieve over High Jump the “Leash” steward will take the dumbbell from the handler as the dog enters the ring and place it on the judges’ table. The judge will direct the steward to deliver the dumbbell to the handler or the judge when needed.

UTILITY CLASS

- The Gate Steward should record the height the dog jumps as stated by the handler of the dog in the catalog beside the armband number.
- One steward immediately sets the high jump while the other steward sets the bar jump.

- For the Scent Discrimination exercise, the gate steward will have placed the handler's articles on the judge's table. The steward or judge will not touch the handler's article, but will need to touch the other articles in order to place them for the exercise.
- After completion of the Scent Discrimination exercise the ring steward places the articles in the handler's container and returns them to the judge's table.
- The Direct Retrieve exercise utilizes two ring stewards. While one steward is picking up the scent articles, the other steward takes the three gloves from the judge's table and goes to the far end of the ring.
- After the dog and handler are in position, the steward will drop one glove in each corner, about 3 feet from the sides and end of the ring. After the exercise is completed, the steward retrieves the remaining two gloves and places them on the judge's table.

THE JUMPS

- The ring steward must be familiar with the Obedience Regulations concerning setting the jumps.
 - The minimum jump shall be set at the nearest multiple of 2 inches to three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers.
 - The minimum jump shall be set to the nearest multiple of 2 inches to the height of the dog at the withers for all other dogs.
 - **NO DOG SHOULD JUMP LESS THAN 8 INCHES OR MORE THAN 36 INCHES.**
- The broad jump is set at twice the distance of the high jump. The low side of each hurdle and the lowest hurdle shall be nearest the dog.
 - The boards shall be spaced as equally as possible as follows:
 - For dogs that jump 16 to 24 inches – use 2 boards.
 - For dogs that jump 28 to 44 inches – use 3 boards.
 - For dogs that jump 48 to 72 inches – use 4 boards.