

Changes to Competitive Obedience Regulations for 2027

The Royal Kennel Club has approved the following changes to the regulations for Competitive Obedience.

The below amendment to the G regulations is to allow winter capped shows (Between 1 October and 31 March) an exception to the 6 months licence application regulation, if they are unable to book their show dates in time. However, shows must apply for the licence as soon as their dates are confirmed, and no later than 6 weeks before the show date.

Amendment to G8. Application

TO:

The application for a licence to hold an Obedience Show must be made to the Secretary of The Royal Kennel Club at least six months before the proposed date of the show together with the appropriate licence fee. **In the event that a winter show (Between 1 October & 31 March) is unable to apply within that timescale due to venue restrictions, by exception applications will be accepted up to 6 weeks prior to the show.**

(Insertions in bold)

(Effective immediately)

The below amendment relates to the removal of the objection fee as part of the complaints process.

Regulation G12.a

TO:

An objection must be lodged directly with the Royal Kennel Club within seven days after the last day of the show and under these circumstances a copy of the objection must be sent to the show secretary. When an objection is lodged the following information must be given;

A statement detailing the objection, quoting the relevant regulation(s). ~~The objection fee of £35, or such amount as may from time to time be decided by the Board.~~

The name and address of the objector.

The name and address of the owner of the dog (if relevant).

All relevant evidence.

~~The objection fee may be returned after consideration of the objection.~~

(deletion struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

The following is an addition to the G regulations for all disciplines to clarify the position regarding refunds issued following the closing date of entries.

Addition to regulations G24.e

TO:

The closing date for entries shall form the contract between the competitor and the society. Where a dog is withdrawn from competition after the closing date for entries, no refund of fee(s) paid shall be due.

(Insertion in bold. Subsequent regulations to be renumbered)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

The below amendment to the G regulations is to clarify that handlers have the choice of whether to complete the run off or not.

Amendment to Regulation G33.i

TO:

In the event of dogs obtaining equality of marks, 'Run Offs' to decide the winning dogs will be judged one at a time by completing one or more of the tests for that class as set out in Annex A.

Handlers who present themselves for a run off will take the higher place(s). Those who decline or do not present themselves for a run off, will not forfeit their place, but accept the lower place(s) in the order decided at the discretion of the judge.

(Insertions in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

Introductory Class Updates

The following amendments to the G regulations are a simplification of the exercises and the scoring in the Introductory Class.

Amendments to Regulation G(A)9(e) Introductory

TO:

9. Introductory.

(e) The detailed test will be:

~~(1) Engagement – this will be marked throughout the test –~~

~~the use of motivators and rewards before and between~~

~~exercises which may include food, silent toys, tricks, and~~

~~verbal and physical praise within the reward area of the~~

~~ring. Toys and food in a closed container, must either be~~

~~left on the reward table, or be concealed in the handler's~~

~~pocket during tests, where only verbal motivation may
be used to keep the dog engaged.~~ 10 Points

~~(2 1)~~ Heelwork to be set and marked as 2 distinct exercises:-

~~2-1a.~~ 'Heelwork set up on lead' and ~~21b.~~ 'Heelwork on lead'

a) Heelwork Set Up - on lead, handler to set the dog
up in heelwork position, in a designated spot,
facing the judge, on steward's command.

Handler to be asked if they are ready, when this
is acknowledged, steward will say 'end of test' 2-5 Points

b) Heel on lead, from a moving start and detailed in

Annex G(C)4 c and d – Tests 8-15 Points

~~(3 2)~~ Recall - **Off lead or on a long line – handler's choice** ~~to be set and
marked as 3 distinct exercises:-~~

~~(a) 'Recall Present' – On lead dog sitting in front of the
handler, handler takes one step back on steward's
command, then calls the dog into the present again on
steward's command, the steward will say 'end of test'~~ 2 Points

~~(b) 'Recall Finish' – on lead. Dog sitting in front of the
handler, on steward's command, handler directs the
dog to heel, whilst keeping feet still, the steward will
say 'end of test'~~ 2 Points

~~(c) 'Recall – on/off a long line – handler's choice'. On
command, the handler shall leave the dog in a sit or a
down in the direction instructed. When instructed,
the handler will halt and then turn to face the dog.
When instructed, the handler will recall the dog
which must return briskly – no present is required,
but will not be penalised – once the dog has~~

~~returned, the steward will say 'end of test'~~ 6 Points

At the start of the exercise the dog should be in the sit or down position (handler's choice of position) at the handler's left side. On command, the handler shall leave the dog in the direction instructed. When instructed, the handler will halt and then turn to face the dog. When instructed, the handler will recall the dog which must return briskly to the 'present' position and sit. When instructed, the handler will command the dog to go to the heel position on the handler's left side and sit in the 'heel' position.

10 points

(3) Teamwork. Overall marks are available for teamwork in terms of:

- When and how verbal praise is used during the exercises and how verbal/physical praise, tricks, food and/or play rewards are used before and between exercises.
- How the handler supports and encourages their dog to help them cope with the ring experience. 5 Points

(4) TOTAL

~~30~~ 35 Points

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through.)
(Effective 1 January 2027)

Amendment to Regulation G(C)4.c. Tests – Heelwork

TO:

c. Heelwork - in all classes at the start and end of the test the dog should be sitting straight at the handler's side except in Introductory, which will be from a moving start **with no halt at the end.**

(Insertions in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

Amendment to Regulation G(C)4.d.(1) Tests – Heel on lead

TO:

d. Heel on lead

(1) Introductory Class. ~~Heel on Lead will be broken down into distinct tests, as detailed above,~~ Heelwork from a moving start, to be on lead and will be **either:-**

- a) A large 'figure of 8' 8 points
- b) Or a large 'S' shape.....8 points
- c) Or an arc or circle in one direction, break off and reward and the pattern then repeated in the opposite direction.....4 points plus 4 points
- a) a large circle in both directions.....15 points
- b) or a U shape along three sides of the ring in both directions..... 15 points

or parts thereof depending on the size of the ring (e.g. for a large ring just an arc in both directions or two straight sides of the ring).

Judging will only begin at a marked point so the handler may start with a sit at heel before the marker or do a moving start.

The change of direction in either pattern can be a small arc rather than an about turn.

If the U shape is used, handlers do not need to do formal turns in each of the corners, but they may work the turns if they wish but they will not be marked.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through.)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

Amendment to Regulation G(C)4.f.(2) Tests – Heel on lead

TO:

f. Recall

~~(2) Introductory Class will be divided into three parts 4.f.(1)a. Present, 4.f.(1)b. Finish and 4.f.(1)c. Recall, and will each be tested separately.~~

~~a) 'Present' on lead dog sitting in front of the handler, handler takes one step back on steward's command, then calls the dog into the present on steward's command, the steward will say 'end of test' 2 points~~

~~b) 'Finish' on lead dog sitting in front of the handler, on steward's command, handler directs the dog to heel and finish in a sit, whilst keeping feet still. The steward will say 'end of test' 2 points~~

~~c) 'Recall' On/o Off lead or on a long line handler's choice. At the start of the exercise the dog should be in the sit or down position (handler's choice of position) at the handler's left side on or off a long line (handler's choice). On command, the handler shall leave the dog in the direction instructed. When instructed, the handler will halt and then turn to face the dog. When instructed, the handler will recall the dog, which must return briskly to the handler. A present is not required, but will not be penalised. The steward will say 'end of test' 6 points~~

(2) Introductory Class - Recall - Off lead or on a long line – handler's choice. At the start of the exercise the dog should be in the sit or down position (handler's choice of position) at the handler's left side. On command, the handler shall leave the dog in the direction instructed. When instructed, the handler will halt and then turn to face the dog. When instructed, the handler will recall the dog which must return briskly to the 'present' position and sit. When instructed, the handler will command the dog to go to the heel position on the handler's left side and sit in the 'heel' position.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through.)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

Amendment to Regulation G(C)1.f(7) - Timetable of Judging

TO:



f. Timetable of judging - to assist the show executive the following guide timetable is issued:

(7) Introductory Class ~~10~~ **12** dogs per hour

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through.)

(Effective 1 January 2027)