

January 15, 2009

To: All American Kennel Club Licensed and Member Clubs Approved for Obedience Events

We thought it would be helpful to provide AKC clubs that hold obedience trials with a summary of recent and future changes to the *Obedience Regulations*. All of the following changes are in the October 2008 *Gazette* and available on the AKC website.

In 2007, the AKC Board approved three optional titling classes, which became effective on January 1, 2009. Offering these classes is entirely optional and the club's decision.

- **Graduate Novice.** Exercises are the same as when this class could be offered as a non-regular class; judges must be approved to judge Novice or higher classes; suggested judging rate is eight dogs per hour.
- **Graduate Open.** Exercises are the same as when this class could be offered as a non-regular class; judges must be approved to judge Open or higher; judging rate is seven dogs per hour.
- **Versatility.** Structure is slightly different from when this class could be offered as a non-regular class, with 12 possible combinations provided for judges to choose from; judges must be approved to judge Utility; suggested judging rate is six dogs per hour.

Three new non-regular classes have been added to the *Obedience Regulations*, as approved by the AKC Board at the July 2007 Board meeting. These classes are Wild Card Novice, Wild Card Open, and Wild Card Utility. Judges must have trained and exhibited a dog to the Utility title and must apply to the AKC for approval to judge non-regular classes.

A new Master (OM)/Grand Master (OGM) title program was added to recognize consistently high scoring dogs, in which title points will be recorded for dogs with a Utility title. The point schedule is listed in the regulations.

Effective on January 1, 2010, clubs will have the option of holding two all-breed obedience trials concurrently, at the same time on the same day (as opposed to two trials in succession under the current rules). A new non-regular class, Obedience Advanced Team Work, may be offered.

Effective July 1, 2010, a club may offer a new optional titling class, Beginners Novice (BN), which is a class designed to bridge Rally and Novice level obedience.

Additionally, effective January 1, 2011, the CD CDX, UD, GN, GO, VER, and BN titles will be awarded to any dog who receives **three** qualifying scores under **two** different judges. This will change the current requirement of **three** qualifying scores under **three** different judges.

Additional information on changes and effective dates are on the [AKC website](#).

Sincerely,



Curt A. Curtis