



C-WAGS is a dog & handler team sport dedicated to all the great dog and handler teams – that we may all aspire to become such a team with our canine partner. May the journey along the way build a positive relationship, create mutual trust and contain both work and games!

OBEDIENCE

C-WAGS offers titles in Obedience & Rally. (Game titles based on both obedience and rally coming soon). Trials may be hosted by a club, organization, or individual. Trials may be held in conjunction with any other dog organization's event. Trials may consist of any combination of classes.

ELIGIBILITY

- All dogs at least 6 months old at the date of the trial are eligible to compete in C-WAGS classes that have no jump. Dogs must be one year old to compete in any class with a jump.
- At this time, dog and handler teams may complete their C-WAGS registration on the day-of-show prior to competing and trial host will submit with trial results.
- All dogs must be handled by the registered handler or an immediate family member (see FEO for exception.)
- For Exhibition Only - FEO– Trial hosts may choose to accept entries as FEO at regular or reduced entry fee. The scores from this entry are not recorded. Placements can not be earned. The dog may be handled by a non-family member, or may be a non-registered team.
- Female dogs in season may not compete.
- Disabled dogs are allowed and encouraged to compete as long as they do not show signs of pain or discomfort. Reasonable Exercise Modifications may be requested at each trial. The judge will review and has the sole authority to approve or deny all requests for their class. .
- Disabled handlers are allowed and encouraged to compete. Reasonable exercise modifications may be requested at each trial. The judge will review, and has the sole authority to approve or deny, all requests for their class.
- Judges and trial hosts may compete at trials in which they are working.
- Students may show under their instructor.
- Junior Handler Program for handlers under age 17.

C-WAGS Obedience

SHOW GROUND EXPECTATIONS

A show / trial is a chance to connect with old friends and an opportunity to make new friends. As such:

- All exhibitors are expected to treat the judges, advocates, trial hosts, their canine partner and all other exhibitors with respect.
- All judges, advocates and trial hosts are expected to show respect to all exhibitors.
- The owner / handler has complete responsibility to maintain control of their dog on the show grounds
- Any judge, advocate or trial host has the authority to excuse / remove any dog or handler from the ring or show grounds due to aggression towards a dog or person. This includes handler-delivered corrections to their dog in or out of the ring. A warning is optional. The decision to remove a dog and / or handler from the trial grounds is final for that trial. A report must be submitted to C-WAGS by the trial host. A review by C-Wags will determine if the dog / handler may show again at future trials.
- All dogs must be on leash and under control at all times on the show grounds unless in the competition or practice ring. Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the ring. Dogs may be carried into or out of the ring.
- Collars: The dog must wear a buckle, snap or properly fit martingale collar and/or body harness in the ring. Collars / harnesses with tags may be worn in the ring. Electronic training collars not allowed on the show grounds.
- Trial hosts are encouraged, but not required to allow move-ups between trials.
- Exhibitors are expected to be familiar with the rules for the organization and the classes that they enter.
- Judges are expected to apply judging criteria consistently from team to team.
- Judges may discuss an exhibitor's score after the conclusion of the class. The judge may discontinue the discussion if in the judge's opinion, the discussion becomes offensive.
- Exhibitors may request to be excused during the performance. Judges must honor any such request.
- Exercise Modifications - Handlers requesting an exercise modification for either themselves or their dog must complete the Exercise Modification form and have it approved by the judge prior to the beginning of the class. Judges are not required to approve all modifications. Even with a modification the principal parts of the exercise must still be incorporated into the exercise. Judges may suggest a modification that will meet the criteria. Approved modification forms will be attached to the score sheet for that team.
- Ring Size – Obedience: Levels 1 – 3 must be at least 30' x 40', Levels 4 & 5 at least 40' x 50'. Rally: 2700 sq ft – 4000 sq ft. (exceptions may be granted for Level 1, Zoom 1, Starter and Advanced)
- Subtle markings may be used to mark exercise locations in the ring.
- Judging Order – trial hosts are encouraged to arrange judging order by jump heights where appropriate. Dogs should be judged in scheduled order as

C-WAGS Obedience

much as possible. Possible conflicts should be brought to the attention of the judge or gate steward before the class begins, at which time movement within the class may be made. Judges are not required to wait for any team that is not ready when it is their turn.

- Teams may compete in multiple levels at the same trial while working on the title for those classes or while working towards the Championship title.
- A dog may be registered as a team with more than one handler.
- A dog may not be entered in the same class more than one time unless the SECOND run is FEO.

Jr. Handler Program

- Open to any handler under the age of 17 at the date of the trial
- The Jr. Handler and dog team must be registered with C-WAGS
- The dog may have earned or be actively competing towards titles in obedience or rally with another handler. A dog may not be entered in the same class more than one time unless the SECOND run is FEO.
- Jr. teams may start at the lower level of each program (regardless of titles the dog has earned with other handlers) and progress through the levels as titles are earned.
- All classes have a Jr. Division.
- Will follow the standard judging guidelines in all classes with a few exceptions, which are noted in general judging guidelines.

Placements will be given to at least the top 4 teams. The team does not need to qualify to place. Non-qualifiers will receive recognition for efforts. Trial hosts are encouraged to offer a small prize along with the ribbons.

Trial Official's Class/Division (To)

Trial Hosts may have a special class/division open to the judge and trial host officials/workers/judge's family members who wish to enter.

- The class must be judged by a C-WAGS judge.
- Scores earned in the Official's Class will not be eligible for special awards.
- Trial hosts are not required to offer placements within this class/division.
- Qualifying scores will receive a qualifying ribbon.
- It may be run before, during, at the end of, or after the class or trial.
- Judge's family members must enter this class/division if entered in the class.
- Separate post trial paperwork must be submitted.

Obedience Championship Titles-

ACE - Teams may continue to compete indefinitely in the B division of all classes. Teams that receive 10 additional qualifying scores will be awarded the ACE title at that level: C-WAGS Obedience Ace Level 1 (CW-OAL1); C-WAGS Obedience Ace Level 2 (CW-OAL2); C-WAGS Obedience Ace Level 3 (CW-OAL3); C-WAGS Obedience Ace Level 4 (CW-OAL4); C-WAGS Obedience Champion Ace (Level 5) (CW-OCA). Teams may collect additional Ace titles at each level and will be designated as CW-OAL1x2, CW-OAL1x3, etc.

See Rally Rules for Rally ACE titles.

C-WAGS Obedience

C-WAGS Obedience

Thanks to everyone who has provided ideas and feedback so that this program could be developed. Special Thanks to Bonnie Hornfisher, Russ Hornfisher, Ginger Alpine and Pam Sheehan for making this vision happen.

Teams may begin competing in C-WAGS Obedience in Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 or any combination of these levels.

General Judging Guidelines and Definitions: Any exceptions to these guidelines are noted on individual exercises.

Anticipation by Dog - will result in a Non-Qualifying Score on any exercise where the dog responds before the handler's cue, EXCEPT for "finish", "exercise finished", and all heeling and figure 8 exercises. Anticipation in these exercises will incur a Minor to Major deduction. Minor feet movement or "scooting" should not be mistaken for anticipation and will receive slight to major deductions based on degree of infraction. Anticipation also includes moving substantial distance from where left or sent to and may be scored up to, and including Non-Qualifying.

Barking – more than one or two barks will receive a minor deduction. Continuous barking will receive a Non-Qualifying score.

Consistency – Each class should be consistent for all exhibitors. Exercise order, heeling patterns, "judge's option" exercises will be the same for all exhibitors in the class.

Cues – Handlers are permitted to talk, to praise, and to encourage the dog throughout the performance.

- Unless specifically stated otherwise, both hand and voice cues may be given simultaneously for all parts of an exercise. Ex: Recall over jump, handler may use a cue for the "come", "jump", "sit", and "return to heel" portion of the exercise.
- Unless specifically stated otherwise, foot movement by the handler as part of a cue will be penalized. A slight to minor deduction will result for foot cues during a minor portion of an exercise. Example: small movement of the handler's feet in cuing the dog to perform a finish. A non-qualifying score will result for foot cues directing a significant portion of the exercise. Examples include, but are not limited to: Directed Jump-handler moves a foot to the side to direct dog over the jump, Drop on Recall –handler moves foot forward to emphasize drop immediately.
- Additional cues to get the behavior to happen, whether verbal, or hand/body will be penalized 3 points.
- "Stay" – as long as the dog is not moving, a repeated "stay" would not be penalized as the dog is already doing the behavior.
- The dog's name may be used with a cue and will not be penalized - unless used as a second cue. Example: "SPOT SIT", no penalty. But used as "SPOT" wait a second or two followed by "SIT" would be a second cue and penalized.
- Loud or intimidating cues or signals will receive a major deduction.

C-WAGS Obedience

- Hand cues must not be “held in place” and hands should be returned to their original position after giving cues. Prolonged use of hands as targets will be penalized as an additional cue.

Deductions – SLIGHT deductions are considered ½ to 1 point. MINOR deductions are 2 to 3 points. MAJOR deductions would be 4 points or higher.

Divisions A / B / Jr., To (trial officials) – may be combined for running order in all classes. Separate placements will be given to at least the top 4 teams in each division, excluding TO. (Trials held as a league or tournament will not be required to give placements in individual classes.)

Entering / Exiting the Ring - Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the ring. Leashes will be removed inside the ring at a place designated by the judge/steward, and must be attached prior to leaving the ring. Dogs leaving the ring unleashed that are not under owner control will receive a Non-Qualifying score. Dogs that leave the ring under control, but have not yet left the gate area, and return to the ring to have the leash attached will receive a 5 point deduction to their score. Dogs that leave the ring unleashed and do not return to have the leash attached in the ring will receive a Non-Qualifying score.

After the working team has left the ring, the judge will invite the next team into the ring. The Judge may offer the option: of entering the ring and waiting for the judge to be ready; **or**, of waiting to enter the ring until the judge is ready to begin.

Dogs may be carried into or out of the ring. Leash rules still apply.

Excusal -Dogs must be excused from the ring if they have bandages, stitches, become ill or eliminate in the ring. The judge may excuse the team from the ring for aggressive behavior.

Food / Petting Rewards - After the Exercise Finished order from the judge at the end of each exercise and before moving to the next exercise, the handler may release and reward their dog with petting and/or a food treat. Petting is allowed to continue between exercises. Food must be kept in a pocket until the exercise has ended. Dropping food will result in a major deduction of 4 points. Food out of the pocket prior to the end of the exercise will result in a Non-Qualifying score. After the team enters the ring and the dog is in the starting position, the handler may treat their dog before responding to the judge that they are ready to begin.

Hand and Leash position – the leash may be held in either hand , both hands or moved between hands while performing the on-leash exercises. When not holding the leash with both hands, the other hand may be held at the handler’s waist area or hang naturally at the handler’s side. There should be no tension on the dog’s collar.

For off-leash exercises either hand may be held at the handler’s waist area with the other hand hanging naturally at the side, or both hands may hang naturally at the handler’s sides. Arms may be adjusted to maintain balance during the “fast”. In exercises requiring the dog to come to the “front” position, the handler’s arms must be at their sides after giving cue.

Handler Errors – Judges may deduct slight to major points for handler errors. Including, but not limited to: Timing of verbal or body cues, such as handler slow to cue the drop on the Drop On Recall exercise; excessive turning on Call To

C-WAGS Obedience

Heel exercises, Pivots on Directed jumping; handler errors on Handler Exam of Dog.

Heel & Position –the dog’s body position regardless of activity – such as moving, sitting, or lying down, should be in line with the handler’s left side. The dog’s right shoulder line should be within 12” of the handler’s left hip line. Deductions will be awarded based on the time and distance the dog is “out of heel” position.

- The team should heel at a brisk pace, come to a stop promptly when commanded to halt with the dog sitting in heel position.
- About Turns may be performed by handler and dog turning to the right or to the left and resume heeling in the same lane they were in prior to the turn. About Turns may also be performed as the “Left About Turn” as in rally.
- Circles and 270 degree turns may be pivots in place or loops up to the size of a hula hoop.
- Hand and/or arm cues may be used during the heeling exercise only to cue the sit or forward.

Slight ½ to 1 point deduction or more depending on severity:

- Heeling errors, each incidence, including leash tightening, lagging, forging, wide, dog/handler casual contact. Wide circles, loops or turns. Out of position errors including crooked sits, fronts, and downs.

Minor deductions:

- Failure of the handler and/or dog to maintain pace change.
- Out of position errors for positions more than 90° out from heel position.
- Slow response to a command or failure to move briskly when required.
- Changes in position - i.e. left in a sit, dog stands but stays in place.
- Failure to **SIT** in heel position or to **SIT** in front when required to do so, will result in a 3 point deduction
- Failure of the dog to move to a finish position when required to do so, or a dog who sits on a “finish forward”, will result in a 3 point deduction.
- Handler giving a hand/arm cue while heeling other than for “sit” or “forward” will result in an additional cue deduction of 3 points.

Major deductions

- Failure of the dog to **GO TO** a front position when required to do so, will result in a 5 point deduction.
- Failure of the dog to go to a heel position when performing a “call to heel” exercise will result in a 5 point deduction.
- Pace change by only one half of the team
- Turns performed the incorrect direction will receive a 5 point deduction.

Non-Qualifying:

- Handler constantly changing pace to match dog’s pace.
- No change of pace by dog and handler team
- Consistently tight leash

Interference or Double Handling – Any interference or double handling that appears to aid the working team – such as a dog that would have left the ring if not blocked by a person outside the ring - will result in the working team receiving a Non-Qualifying score.

C-WAGS Obedience

Judge's Instructions – Prior to each class the judge will walk the course demonstrating the order and placement of each exercise. A course order and layout may be posted prior to the class. Judge's instructions to the handlers during any exercise may be verbal or non-verbal (signals). If the judge is using any signals in the class to instruct the handler during the exercise they will demonstrate them during the class briefing. The first team will be offered at least 5 minutes after the briefing ends to be ready at the gate. The briefing could be before awards of the preceding class, with the first team beginning after the awards. Before each exercise the judge will introduce the exercise and ask the handler "Are you ready?" Upon a positive reply, judging begins. At the conclusion of the exercise the judge will give the "exercise finished" order at which time judging of that exercise ends.

Jump – A bar jump, high jump or agility style jump constructed in a manner that provides stability and safety for all dogs may be used for jump exercises – (other than for the Broad Jump exercise). The uprights must be between 4' – 5' apart with no wings. Jump heights will be 4" 8" 12" 16". The broad jump must also be between 4' – 5' in length. The broad jump distance will be twice that of the upright jump height. Knocking down a jump bar or stepping on or between a broad jump, or not taking the jump when required to do so will result in a Non-Qualifying Score. Handlers may jump their dog at a listed jump height higher than required.

Jump Heights

Shoulder height	Bar/High Jump	Broad Jump	
Under 11"	4"	8"	1 board
11" to under 15"	8"	16"	2 boards
15" to under 20"	12"	24"	2 boards
Over 20"	16"	32"	3 boards

Junior's Program – When judging the Jr. team, judges should recognize that these teams are young and still developing. They should give a slight consideration to the age of the junior when deductions are made for handler errors. Minimum standards still need to be achieved to qualify.

Non-Qualifying Events - general:

- Dog completely leaving the ring at any time during the class. The team may finish the class.
- Physical or harsh verbal corrections. The judge may excuse the team from the ring.
- Signs of Aggression, extreme fear or uncontrollable behavior.

Ties for Placements - See individual class descriptions.

Touching of Dog / Collar For Control – In Level 3 and higher handler may guide dog gently by the collar after the last exercise in the class prior to attaching the leash, during other times touching the dog for control will result in a 3 point deduction. Handlers in Level 2 may gently guide the dog by the collar between exercises; during other times touching the dog for control will result in a 3 point deduction.