

SUMMARY highlights of 9/1/2020 Obedience changes

All dogs at least 6 months old at the date of the trial are eligible to compete in C-WAGS Trials. (removed must be at least 12 months to enter classes with a jump)

Dogs that are **permanently** disabled are allowed and encouraged to compete as long as they do not show signs of pain or discomfort. [See Modifications on Page 2.](#)

Changed minimum ring sizes

Cues –(added clarifications) **A cue is an initial prompt to perform a behavior. If the dog is performing / in the process of performing the action without hesitation then whatever the handler says should be considered encouragement.**

Dogs are expected to respond promptly to cues. Slow responses will receive a minor to major deduction.

“Stay” – as long as the dog is not moving, a repeated “stay” would not be penalized as the dog is already doing the behavior. Unless the exercise specifically states otherwise, any exercise where the judge will instruct the handler to leave the dog, (added) **the handler is allowed to give a verbal and/or hand cue to stay before leaving.**

Hand and body cues must not be “held in place”. Hands should be returned to their original position after giving cues. Prolonged use of hands as cues or targets will be penalized as an additional cue. **Handler after bending over giving a cue should return to an upright position.**

Divisions A / B / Jr. TO -(moved the definitions from each class to one location) The purpose of the “A” and “B” divisions is for placement awards based on their score and grouped with other dogs with similar experience. You are the only one who knows your dog’s history and which division is appropriate. It is an honor system. In general, when you enter a class you want to be competing for placements against dogs with the same level of experience. When you look at the exercises in the class you are entering – are these newer to your dog exercises? Or has your dog gotten titles (from C-WAGS or any other venue) and had a lot of experience with these exercises? The “A” division should be used when your dog has not ever, anywhere titled at this level of exercises. The “B” division would be used when your dog has titled somewhere at this level of difficulty/exercises or above.

Food / Petting Rewards – (clarification) After the Exercise Finished order from the judge at the end of each exercise the handler may release and reward their dog with petting and/or a food treat. **The food reward needs to occur in the area the exercise ended. The handler should not be moving and rewarding with food at the same time, it needs to be completed before moving to the next exercise location.** Petting or interacting is allowed to continue between exercises. Food must be kept in a pocket until the exercise has ended. Treat pouches may not be worn. Dropping food will result in a major deduction of 4 points. Food given inappropriately or 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 reward their dog for the set-up behavior with food 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. **Dropping the leash during the performance will result in a Slight deduction.** In **off-leash** 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: **Not waiting for the judge’s instruction;**

Heel Position –the dog’s body position regardless of activity — should be in line with the handler’s left side – includes standing, moving, sitting, or lying down. **For exercises that begin with the dog in “heel position” it is the handler’s choice of stand, sit, or down.** The dog’s right shoulder line should be within 12” of the handler’s left hip line.

Suggested Jump Heights - Handlers will select the appropriate jump height for their dog as they are most qualified to know what is appropriate for their dog’s age and physical condition.

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 **or as cue will** result in a 3 point deduction.

Level 1 Heeling distance

Walk Around and Greeting, preceded by heeling

Level 2 Combined Heeling and Figure 8 into one exercise

Combined Call to Heel and Position Change into one exercise

Leave Dog for Leash preceded by heeling

Level 3 **Several** exercise start with dog in “heel” which does not have to be a sit.

Heeling can include a figure 8

Find Front preceded by heeling

Level 4 Moved Seek Dropped Item to Level 5 only.

Section of heeling with the exercises can also include halts, circles and or 270’s.

Level 5 Total Points 150 Qualifying score 120 or better

Includes the Seek Dropped Item in place of the Directed Glove exercise.

Heeling must include a figure 8.