



**OBEDIENCE COMPETITIONS
RULES 2023 (CRUFTS 2024)**



**SECTION 1:
YKC OBEDIENCE GENERAL RULES**

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A: **DEFINITION**

1. The YKC hosts three obedience competition finals at Crufts. To qualify for this final, members must compete in YKC Obedience classes held at appointed licensed shows throughout the year, these classes can be found at www.ykc.org.uk
2. Obedience qualifiers run from the 1st January to the 31st December for the following year's Crufts

B: **CLASSES**

1. There are three different classes for members to enter
 - i. Basic
 - ii. Novice
 - iii. High Flyers
2. When entering classes, you should enter the lowest class you can, for example, if you have a new dog who has done very little obedience before, don't enter them in High Flyers!
3. Obedience classes start with you on the maximum possible marks, you will lose marks for each mistake. The competitor with the lowest total error marks at the end of the competition wins.

C:

HANDLERS

1. Age categories for YKC members are defined as:

6+	6-11 Years (Handlers 6 years and up to, but not including 12 th birthday)
12+	12-17 Years (Handlers 12 years and up to, but not including 18 th birthday)
18+	18 –24 Years (Handlers 18 years and up to, but not including 25 th birthday)
 2. When entering a qualifier, enter the age category that the member will be on the first day of the show hosting the qualifier (even if the class isn't on the first day)
 - i. When entering Crufts, enter the age category that the member will be on the first day of Crufts
 - a. The YKC will place you in the correct age category for Crufts
 - ii. If you turn 25 before the first day of Crufts, you will be unable to compete in the finals at Crufts
 3. You must be a member of the Young Kennel Club before entering any Young Kennel Club classes.
 4. The age groups will compete together in each class, but are awarded prizes separately
 5. You are not allowed to reveal either your identity or your dog's.
 - i. This includes name badges or telling someone.
 - a. The only way to identify you should be your Ring number that you must wear.
 - b. If requested for by the judge or ring steward, a handler may (at their choice) disclose their name and dog's pet name for possible show report use.
 - (1) It is common practice in Obedience to ask this.
 6. After the commencement of judging the responsibility for dogs being brought to the ring to compete is entirely the competitors. (Make sure you are not late!!)
 7. In all tests, the left-hand side of a handler will be regarded as the "working side" unless:
 8. The handler suffers from a physical disability and has the Judge's permission to work the dog on the right-hand side.
-

D:

DOGS

1. All competing dogs must be six calendar months of age or over on the day of competition.
2. Dogs must be registered with the Kennel Club when entering Kennel Club licenced shows.
 - i. Dogs can either be registered on the breed register or the activity register.
 - ii. Dogs may be any breed or Crossbreed.
3. Food shall not be carried in the hand or given to a dog in the ring.
4. Once a dog has run with one handler in a competition, it may not compete with another handler in the same competition for the remainder of the qualifying year.

5. Bitches in season will not be allowed to compete in YKC qualifying classes nor in the YKC ring at Crufts
6. Toys may not be carried in the ring.
 - i. Where an exercise includes a toy, check with the judge or steward on how to obtain the toy

E:

JUDGING CRITERIA

1. The judge will set the course for the competitors to complete.
2. If either the dog or handler withdraws from competition after the closing of entries then both dog and handler are withdrawn from that class.
3. No substitute of dog or handler may take place.
4. There is no limit on the number of dogs a YKC member can work.
5. Practice Rounds are not permitted.
6. In all tests handlers may use as many commands and signals as necessary.
7. All heelwork tests may contain circles as described but must also include straight lines and a combination of turns appropriate to the level being judged.
8. In all play exercises the time must not be more than 20 seconds but can be 15 seconds if the judge is satisfied with the standard of the dog and handler
9. Judges will decide if each competitor is ready for Crufts should a cascade roll down reach them
 - i. Rather than install an arbitrary score that members must score under, a judge will have at their discretion the ability to withhold a possible qualification from any member they have judged
 - ii. Qualification spaces may only be withheld should a member score maximum on one or more of the exercises AND only if it is deemed by the judge that the member would struggle to compete in a much higher pressured environment such as Crufts.

F:

YKC OBEDIENCE QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

1. You may enter as many different qualification heats as you wish, even after you have already qualified with a 1st place
2. **YOU MAY ONLY ENTER 2 DOGS INTO EACH OBEDIENCE CATEGORY IN THE YKC RING AT CRUFTS i.e:**
 - a. **2x Dogs in Basic**
 - b. **2 x Dogs in Novice**
 - c. **2 x Dogs in High Flyers**

(1) (6 dogs max across all competitions)
3. If either a dog or handler cannot compete at Crufts, neither can be substituted and the qualification place is forfeited – except:
 - i. If you have qualified an additional dog; you may substitute this dog with another that you have qualified for the relevant YKC Obedience Class.
4. The handler may NEVER be substituted

5. If you have successfully qualified a dog for a YKC obedience class, you are deemed to have also qualified any other dog in that subcategory where you have received a placing that is equal to or higher than the roll down placings for that subcategory. (This sounds complicated but read the following example)

EXAMPLE

- i. Eg: John is in the 12-17 Basic Obedience Class and has the following placings at qualifiers for Basic Obedience:
 - a. 1st place with Fido (large dog)
 - b. 2nd place with Misty (large dog)
 - c. 4th place with Skye (large dog)
 - ii. At the end of the year, “12-17 Basic Obedience” category needed to invite some 2nd place handlers to fill the 7 spaces available for that category.
 - a. Therefore, John has qualified both Fido AND Misty but NOT Skye.
6. The YKC will let you know which dogs you may pick from to enter each YKC Obedience final.
 7. Once entries for Crufts have closed, there will be no additional dogs invited to enter the YKC obedience finals

G: FINALS

1. The finals for all YKC Obedience competitions are held at Crufts in the YKC ring.
2. You may handle up to two dogs in each YKC Obedience Class – regardless of how many dogs you qualified.
 - i. You will have the choice when you enter the competition to choose between any dogs you have qualified to run in the final.
3. You always compete in the age category you are on the first day of Crufts,
 - i. for example, if a member qualified as an 11-year-old and turns 12 before the first day of Crufts, they will be invited to compete in the 12-17 age group
 - ii. This means you will be ineligible to compete at the Crufts finals if you turn 25 on or before the first day of Crufts.
4. Each of the twelve categories will have separate placings and prize-givings

At Crufts, Dogs **MUST** run in strict running order, if you are not on the line when your obedience round is due, you will have missed your run

G:

QUALIFICATION
CRITERIA

STEP 1

1. The waterfall/cascade qualification method will be used to determine who qualifies for the following competitions:
 - i. Basic Obedience
 - ii. Novice Obedience
 - iii. High Flyers Obedience
2. This method is a modification of a roll down system and will be described in detail below:
3. **Step 1: First Places**
 - i. Win a qualifier in your age and height category during the qualification year.
 - ii. First place will guarantee you a qualification space.
 - a. First places may be withheld if the judge deems that you have not completed enough of an exercise.
 - iii. Disqualifications do not receive placings and therefore do NOT qualify you, even if you were the only person in the subcategory.

STEP 2

4. **Step 2: Cascade**
 - i. The second step is only used if step 1 did not fill all of the available qualification spaces, after all qualifying shows have finished.
 - ii. All those who have not yet qualified but received a 2nd place with no section gaining the maximum marks are then considered:
 - a. If there are more 2nd place competitors than we have qualification spaces left to fill, then all of the 2nd place competitors names will be placed into a random draw.
 - (i) If you received multiple 2nd places throughout the year in a particular competition, your name will go into the draw only once**
 - (ii) Members will be selected at random until all qualification spaces have been filled for that subcategory. At which point step 2 ends.
 - b. If inviting all of the 2nd place competitors would fill all of the remaining qualification spaces exactly, then all 2nd place competitors fill the qualification spaces and step 2 ends
 - c. If inviting all of the 2nd place competitors does not fill up all of the remaining qualification spaces, all of the 2nd place competitors are invited and the process will be repeated for 3rd place, followed by 4th place and so on, until all of the spaces for the subcategory have been filled.

10. On the next two pages you will find a worked example of the waterfall method in action
11. At the end of this document, you will find an appendix which details the YKC's reasons for selecting this particular qualification method, as well outlining why other methods were not selected.

* To ensure that members can demonstrate they can complete a course competitively in a timely manner

** This is to stop people feeling they need to "chase" lots of 2nd or 3rd place

EXAMPLE

1. WORKED EXAMPLE OF THE WATERFALL METHOD

- i. In this example, we are going to assume the following
 - a. 4 qualifying shows for the year
 - b. 10 places on offer
 - c. These results are for the “12-17 – Basic” subcategory

PLACE	NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS			SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS			EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS			WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS		
	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	FAULTS
1	BOB	STAR	1½	BOB	STAR	½	SAM	ZIGGY	4¼	SOPHIE	FIDO	C
2	JAMES	BUSTER	2¼	ANNA	SKY	1¾C	BOB	STORM	4½	SAM	ZIGGY	C
3	DAVID	TITAN	2½	SAM	ZIGGY	2	ZARA	CHASE	5	TINA	PLUTO	6.725
4	LAURA	CHEDAR	5½	HEATHER	CHAI	2¼	SARAH	ROLO	5%	HARVEY	SAMSON	10
5	SOPHIE	LEAF	7½	ZARA	CHASE	3½	ANNA	SKY	10½	HARVEY	LUDO	10
6	BOB	PIPPIN	10%	SAM	TRIP	5	THEO	ROVER	14½	FRED	TYBALT	15
ETC												

2. Use Step 1

- i. Step 1 looks for every member who has received a first place at a qualifier. Each member with a first place has their Crufts qualification space guaranteed.
 - a. To represent this, we will colour successfully qualified members in yellow
 - b. We will grey out Bob’s 2nd win as he has already qualified Star
 - c. From the example below, only 3 spaces have been filled so far, therefore we need to move to step 2 to fill the remaining positions

PLACE	NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS			SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS			EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS			WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS		
	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE
1	BOB	STAR	1½	BOB	STAR	½	SAM	ZIGGY	4¼	SOPHIE	FIDO	2¼
2	JAMES	BUSTER	2¼	ANNA	SKY	1¾C	BOB	STORM	4½	SAM	ZIGGY	5¼
3	DAVID	TITAN	2½	SAM	ZIGGY	2	ZARA	CHASE	5	TINA	PLUTO	6½
4	LAURA	CHEDAR	5½	HEATHER	CHAI	2¼	SARAH	ROLO	5%	HARVEY	SAMSON	6%
5	SOPHIE	LEAF	7½	ZARA	CHASE	3½	ANNA	SKY	10½	HARVEY	LUDO	7
6	BOB	PIPPIN	10%	SAM	TRIP	5	THEO	ROVER	14½	FRED	TYBALT	8½
ETC												

3. Using Step 2 (x1)

- i. All those who received 2nd places with no time faults are looked at
 - a. Sam has already qualified with Ziggy, so we can grey them out
 - b. James and Anna have not yet qualified so will receive spaces as accepting them both would not exceed the 10 spaces limit
 - c. Bob has now qualified his 2nd dog out of a maximum of 2, Storm
 - d. We have now allocated 6 out of 10 spaces

PLACE	NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS			SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS			EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS			WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS		
	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE
1	BOB	STAR	1½	BOB	STAR	½	SAM	ZIGGY	4¼	SOPHIE	FIDO	2¼
2	JAMES	BUSTER	2¼	ANNA	SKY	1¾C	BOB	STORM	4½	SAM	ZIGGY	5¼
3	DAVID	TITAN	2½	SAM	ZIGGY	2	ZARA	CHASE	5	TINA	PLUTO	6½
4	LAURA	CHEDAR	5½	HEATHER	CHAI	2¼	SARAH	ROLO	5%	HARVEY	SAMSON	6%
5	SOPHIE	LEAF	7½	ZARA	CHASE	3½	ANNA	SKY	10½	HARVEY	LUDO	7
6	BOB	PIPPIN	10%	SAM	TRIP	5	THEO	ROVER	14½	FRED	TYBALT	8½
ETC												

EXAMPLE CONT

4. Step 2 Repeated (x2)

- i. As 10 spaces have still not been filled, 3rd place is now looked at
 - a. Sam is greyed out as they have already qualified
 - b. Tina, David and Zara are all given spaces as that brings the total qualified to 9

NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS				SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS			EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS			WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS		
PLACE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE
1	BOB	STAR	1½	BOB	STAR	½	SAM	ZIGGY	4%	SOPHIE	FIDO	2%
2	JAMES	BUSTER	2%	ANNA	SKY	1¾C	BOB	STORM	4%	SAM	ZIGGY	5%
3	DAVID	TITAN	2½	SAM	ZIGGY	2	ZARA	CHASE	5	TINA	PLUTO	6%
4	LAURA	CHEDAR	5½	HEATHER	CHAI	2¼	SARAH	ROLO	5%	HARVEY	SAMSON	6%
5	SOPHIE	LEAF	7½	ZARA	CHASE	3½	ANNA	SKY	10½	HARVEY	LUDO	7
6	BOB	PIPPIN	10%	SAM	TRIP	5	THEO	ROVER	14%	FRED	TYBALT	8%
ETC												

5. Step 2 Repeated (x3)

- i. Again, 10 spaces have still not been filled; 4th place is now considered
- ii. All 4 members with 4th places have not yet qualified, only 1 space is available
- iii. All 4th place names go into a hat (Blue)

NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS				SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS			EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS			WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS		
PLACE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE
1	BOB	STAR	1½	BOB	STAR	½	SAM	ZIGGY	4%	SOPHIE	FIDO	2%
2	JAMES	BUSTER	2%	ANNA	SKY	1¾C	BOB	STORM	4%	SAM	ZIGGY	5%
3	DAVID	TITAN	2½	SAM	ZIGGY	2	ZARA	CHASE	5	TINA	PLUTO	6%
4	LAURA	CHEDAR	5½	HEATHER	CHAI	2¼	SARAH	ROLO	5%	HARVEY	SAMSON	6%
5	SOPHIE	LEAF	7½	ZARA	CHASE	3½	ANNA	SKY	10½	HARVEY	LUDO	7
6	BOB	PIPPIN	10%	SAM	TRIP	5	THEO	ROVER	14%	FRED	TYBALT	8%
ETC												

1. Step 2 conclusion

- i. Of the 4 names in the hat, 1 is selected at random
- ii. Laura's name was picked from the hat, therefore she manages to qualify
- iii. Sarah, Heather and Harvey were not selected and will not
- iv. All 10 spaces have now been filled

NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS				SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS			EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS			WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS		
PLACE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE	HANDLER	DOG	SCORE
1	BOB	STAR	1½	BOB	STAR	½	SAM	ZIGGY	4%	SOPHIE	FIDO	2%
2	JAMES	BUSTER	2%	ANNA	SKY	1¾C	BOB	STORM	4%	SAM	ZIGGY	5%
3	DAVID	TITAN	2½	SAM	ZIGGY	2	ZARA	CHASE	5	TINA	PLUTO	6%
4	LAURA	CHEDAR	5½	HEATHER	CHAI	2¼	SARAH	ROLO	5%	HARVEY	SAMSON	6%
5	SOPHIE	LEAF	7½	ZARA	CHASE	3½	ANNA	SKY	10½	HARVEY	LUDO	7
6	BOB	PIPPIN	10%	SAM	TRIP	5	THEO	ROVER	14%	FRED	TYBALT	8%
ETC												

1. Who qualified in this example?

- i. In this example, all those in yellow have qualified
- ii. A special mention should be made to Bob,
 - a. He qualified Star by placing first at the North Dog show

When entering Crufts, Bob may pick both "Star" and "Storm" as the dog he is entering.



**OBEDIENCE COMPETITIONS
RULES 2023 (CRUFTS 2024)**



**SECTION 2:
BASIC OBEDIENCE**



TLDR: ONE PAGE RULES YKC BASIC OBEDIENCE



1. THIS IS A SUMMARY ONLY
 - i. PLEASE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FULL YKC BASIC OBEDIENCE RULES
2. YKC Basic Obedience features 4 exercises each competitor must complete at the judge's command
 - i. Play with or motivate your dog for 15-20 seconds (10 Points)
 - ii. Heel on lead (10 Points)
 - iii. Recall with finish to Heel Position (10 Points)
 - iv. Examination of the Dog (10 Points)
3. The age ranges for this class are in line with YKC age ranges:
 - i. [06-11 Years] – [12-17 Years] – [18-24 Years]
4. You qualify for the YKC Basic Obedience Crufts finals by winning a YKC Basic Obedience class during the qualifying year.
 - i. Other qualification methods are available – see document
5. A YKC member may only qualify a maximum of two dogs in this competition for the finals at Crufts



A:

DEFINITION

1. The YKC Basic Obedience competition is the YKC's introductory class into the world of competitive obedience.
2. This class is suitable for members who have very little experience in competitive obedience.

B:

CLASS ELIGIBILITY

1. Basic obedience is for YKC members and dogs who are eligible to compete in the following standard Kennel Club classes:
 - i. Introductory
 - ii. Pre-Beginners

C:

CLASS EXCERSISES

10 Points	Play with or motivate your dog for 15-20 seconds
10 Points	Heel on Lead
10 Points	Recall with Finish to Heel Position
10 Points	Examination of the Dog (handler to show judge)

TOTAL 40 POINTS

D:

CLASS EXERCISES EXPLAINED

10

Points

Play with or motivate your dog for 15-20 seconds:

1. The handler can choose to do this at the start or the end of the test.
2. A toy used for this exercise must be silent.
3. Competitors must not distract other dogs when rewarding their dog with a toy or play.
4. Play should be under the handler's control and;
 - i. if it involves a toy, the dog should give it up readily.
5. No play fighting is allowed, and any play should be safe for the dog.
 - i. You cannot use a formal exercise as a reward.
6. Any form of aggression will be penalised.

10

Points

Heel on Lead

1. The dog should be sitting straight at the handler's left side. On command the handler should walk briskly with the dog at heel.
2. The dog's shoulder should be approximately level with and reasonably close to the handler's leg at all times when the handler is walking.
3. The lead should be slack at all times.
4. On the command to turn, the handler should turn smartly in the direction indicated and the dog should keep its position at the handler's side.
5. On the command 'Halt' the handler should halt immediately and the dog should sit straight at the handler's side.
6. Touching or using the lead to correct or improve your dog's heelwork will be penalised.

HEELWORK ROUNDS / TURNS PERMITTED:

1. Large Circle (Clockwise or Anticlockwise)
2. Straight line
3. 90° Left (Left Turn)
4. 90° Right (Right Turn)
5. 180° Right (About Turn)

10

Points

Recall with Finish to Heel Position

1. Recall off lead from the sit or down position at handler's choice.
2. The dog should be recalled by handler when stationary and facing the dog, the judge or steward will indicate when you should call for your dog.
3. The dog should return quickly but under control to the handler, sit in front, go to heel – when the handler is instructed by the judge or steward.

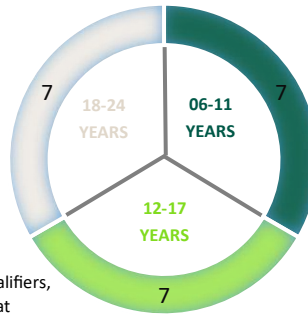
10

Points

Examination of the Dog (handler to show judge)

1. The handler will show the judge how they can settle and examine their own dog.
 - i. This exercise will be carried out on lead.
 - ii. The dog will be required to be inspected in the following areas;
 - a. mouth,
 - b. teeth,
 - c. throat,
 - d. eyes,
 - e. ears
 - f. feet
 - iii. The inspection may take place when the dog is in the following positions;
 - a. standing,
 - b. sitting
 - c. lying down
 - (1) either side or;
 - (2) on its back.
2. Handlers are not required to give a verbal explanation.
3. The judge will not touch the dog but may position themselves close by to observe.
4. The judge/steward may prompt the handler as to which part of the dog's body is required.

1. Across all age categories, there is a soft-cap* of 21 spaces available for members to qualify for.
2. The allocation of spaces will be as follows:
 - i. 7 spaces for each 06-11 Years
 - ii. 7 spaces for each 12-17 Years
 - iii. 7 spaces for each 18-24 Years



Ideal distribution of available spaces

*If there are more than 21 unique 1st places across all YKC Basic Obedience qualifiers, the YKC will honour each of them even if that means more than 21 total competitors

3. If an age category, does not manage to fill all 7 qualification spaces, the remaining spaces will be randomly (but evenly) distributed between the other age categories all 21 age category spaces are filled

i. Example:

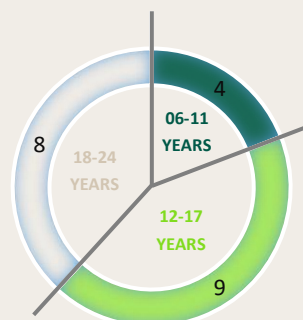
EXAMPLE

- a. If the [06-11 Years] age category only has 4 qualification spaces filled, the remaining 3 spaces will be divided out between the [12-17 Years] & [18-24 Years] age categories as seen below:

- (1) [06-11 Years] = 4 Spaces
- (2) [12-17 Years] = 9 Spaces
- (3) [18-24 Years] = 8 Spaces

- (i) The total number of people qualifying for the Basic obedience final is still 21
- (ii) As in the above example, if an odd number of spaces are available to distribute, the extra space will be allocated to the youngest eligible age group.
- (iii) See below example

QUALIFICATION SPACES





**OBEDIENCE COMPETITIONS
RULES 2023 (CRUFTS 2024)**



**SECTION 3:
YKC NOVICE OBEDIENCE**



TLDR: ONE PAGE RULES YKC JUMPING CUP



1. THIS IS A SUMMARY ONLY

- i. PLEASE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FULL YKC NOVICE OBEDIENCE RULES



2. YKC Novice Obedience features 5 exercises each competitor must complete at the judge's command

- i. Play with or motivate your dog for 15-20 seconds (10 Points)
- ii. Heel on lead (20 Points)
- iii. Heel Free (20 Points)
- iv. Recall with finish to Heel Position (10 Points)
- v. Retrieve own article with finish to heel position (20 Points)

3. The age ranges for this class are in line with YKC age ranges:

- i. [06-11 Years] – [12-17 Years] – [18-24 Years]

4. You qualify for the YKC Novice Obedience Crufts finals by winning a YKC Novice Obedience class during the qualifying year.

- i. Other qualification methods are available – see document



5. A YKC member may only qualify a maximum of two dogs in this competition for the finals at Crufts.

A:

DEFINITION

1. The YKC Novice Obedience competition is designed to give members who have a solid foundation of competitive obedience

B:

CLASS ELIGIBILITY

1. YKC Novice Obedience is for YKC members and dogs who are eligible to compete in the following standard Kennel Club classes:
 - i. Pre-Beginners
 - ii. Beginners
 - iii. Novice

C:

CLASS EXCERSISES

10 Points	Play with or motivate your dog for 15-20 Seconds
20 Points	Heel on Lead
20 Points	Heel Free (Heelwork off lead)
10 Points	Recall with Finish to Heel Position
20 Points	Retrieve own article with finish to heel position

TOTAL 80 POINTS

D:

CLASS EXERCISES EXPLAINED

10

Points

Play with or motivate your dog for 15-20 seconds:

1. The handler can choose to do this at the start or the end of the test.
2. A toy used for this exercise must be silent.
3. Competitors must not distract other dogs when rewarding their dog with a toy or play.
4. Play should be under the handler's control and;
 - i. if it involves a toy, the dog should give it up readily.
5. No play fighting is allowed, and any play should be safe for the dog.
 - i. You cannot use a formal exercise as a reward.
6. Any form of aggression will be penalised.

20

Points

Heel on Lead

1. The dog should be sitting straight at the handler's left side. On command the handler should walk briskly with the dog at heel.
2. The dog's shoulder should be approximately level with and reasonably close to the handler's leg at all times when the handler is walking.
3. The lead should be slack at all times.
4. On the command to turn, the handler should turn smartly in the direction indicated and the dog should keep its position at the handler's side.
5. On the command 'Halt' the handler should halt immediately and the dog should sit straight at the handler's side.
6. Touching or using the lead to correct or improve your dog's heelwork will be penalised.
7. Turning manoeuvres must not be coupled together.
8. Following a turn, the handler and the dog must be allowed several paces if required to turn again.

HEELWORK ROUNDS / TURNS PERMITTED:

1. Medium Circle (Clockwise or Anticlockwise)
2. 90° Left (Left Turn)
3. 90° Right (Right Turn)
4. 180° Right (About Turn)
5. 45° Right (Diagon Right Turn)



20

Points

Heel Free (Heelwork off lead)

1. The dog must be off the lead throughout this test.
2. The test must be carried out in the same manner as Heel on Lead and with the same restriction on turns.

10

Points

Recall with Finish to Heel Position

1. Recall off lead from the sit or down position at handler's choice.
2. The dog should be recalled by handler when stationary and facing the dog, the judge or steward will indicate when you should call for your dog.
3. The dog should return quickly but under control to the handler, sit in front, go to heel – when the handler is instructed by the judge or steward.

20

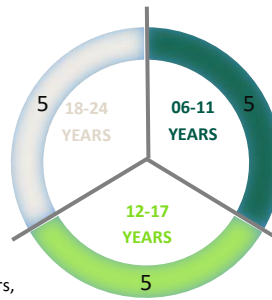
Points

Retrieve own article with finish to heel position

1. At the start of the exercise the dog should be sitting at the handler's side.
2. When the steward instructs, the handler must throw the article in the direction indicated.
3. The dog isn't allowed to move until the handler is instructed to send it to retrieve the article.
4. The dog should move out promptly at a smart pace to collect the article cleanly.
5. It should return with the article at a smart pace and sit straight in front of the handler.
6. On command the handler should take the article from the dog. On further command the dog should be sent to heel.
7. Handlers will use their own article, which can include dumbbell.
 - i. Any article used must be appropriate for the size of the dog and not be food or potentially injurious to the dog.

YKC NOVICE OBEDIENCE

1. Across all age categories, there is a soft-cap* of 15 spaces available for members to qualify for.
2. The allocation of spaces will be as follows:
 - i. 5 spaces for each 06-11 Years
 - ii. 5 spaces for each 12-17 Years
 - iii. 5 spaces for each 18-24 Years



Ideal distribution of available spaces

*If there are more than 15 unique 1st places across all Novice Obedience qualifiers, the YKC will honour each of them even if that means more than 15 total competitors

3. If an age category, does not manage to fill all 5 qualification spaces, the remaining spaces will be randomly (but evenly) distributed between the other age categories all 15 age category spaces are filled

i. Example:

EXAMPLE

- a. If the [06-11 Years] age category only has 4 qualification spaces filled, the remaining 3 spaces will be divided out between the [12-17 Years] & [18-24 Years] age categories as seen below:

- (1) [06-11 Years] = 2 Spaces
- (2) [12-17 Years] = 7 Spaces
- (3) [18-24 Years] = 6 Spaces

- (i) The total number of people qualifying for the Basic obedience final is still 15
- (ii) As in the above example, if an odd number of spaces are available to distribute, the extra space will be allocated to the youngest eligible age group.
- (iii) See below example



QUALIFICATION SPACES



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**SECTION 4:
YKC HIGH FLYERS**



TLDR: ONE PAGE RULES

YKC HIGH FLYERS OBEDIENCE



1. THIS IS A SUMMARY ONLY

- i. PLEASE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FULL YKC NOVICE OBEDIENCE RULES



2. YKC High Flyers Obedience features 6 exercises each competitor must complete at the judge's command

- i. Play with or motivate your dog for 15-20 seconds (10 Points)
- ii. Heel Free (40 Points)
 - a. Normal
 - b. Slow
 - c. Fast
- iii. Sendaway and Down on Command (25 Points)
- iv. A Recall with commands (15 Points)
- v. Retrieve judge's article with commands (30 Points)
- vi. Scent (30)



3. The age ranges for this class are in line with YKC age ranges:

- i. [06-11 Years] – [12-17 Years] – [18-24 Years]

4. You qualify for the YKC High Flyers Obedience Crufts finals by winning a YKC High Flyers Obedience class during the qualifying year.

- i. Other qualification methods are available – see document

5. A YKC member may only qualify a maximum of two dogs in this competition for the finals at Crufts



YKC HIGH FLYERS OBEDIENCE

A:

DEFINITION

1. The YKC High Flyers Obedience competition is the YKC's most difficult class. It aims to showcase the very best YKC obedience.

B:

CLASS ELIGIBILITY

1. YKC High Flyers Obedience is for YKC members and dogs who are eligible to compete in the following standard Kennel Club classes:
 - i. Novice
 - ii. Class A
 - iii. Class B
 - a. Dogs only eligible for Class C may only be used if the dog is registered in the name of the YKC member or immediate parent and that member has trained the dog to its current standard.

C:

CLASS EXCERSISES

10 Points	Play with or motivate your dog for 15-20 Seconds
40 Points	Heel Free (Heelwork off lead) (with commands) at normal, slow and fast paces by choice of the judge)
25 Points	Sendaway and Down on Command
15 Points	A Recall (with commands)
30 Points	Retrieve Article (provided by the judge) (with commands)
30 Points	Scent (Handler's scent on cloth) Test formed of six cloths arranged in a straight line in any direction. No Extra commands allowed whilst the dog is over the Scent area. A Line marking the scent area will be drawn by the judge.)

TOTAL 150 POINTS

D:

CLASS EXERCISES EXPLAINED

10

Points

Play with or motivate your dog for 15-20 seconds:

1. The handler can choose to do this at the start or the end of the test.
2. A toy used for this exercise must be silent.
3. Competitors must not distract other dogs when rewarding their dog with a toy or play.
4. Play should be under the handler's control and;
 - i. if it involves a toy, the dog should give it up readily.
5. No play fighting is allowed, and any play should be safe for the dog.
 - i. You cannot use a formal exercise as a reward.
6. Any form of aggression will be penalised.

40

Points

Heel Free (Heelwork off lead)

(with commands) at normal, slow and fast paces by choice of the judge. Changes of pace may be from a halt or while the handler and dog are moving

1. The dog should be sitting straight at the handler's left side. On command the handler should walk briskly with the dog at heel.
2. The dog's shoulder should be approximately level with and reasonably close to the handler's leg at all times when the handler is walking.
3. The dog shall be off lead throughout.
4. On the command to turn, the handler should turn smartly in the direction indicated and the dog should keep its position at the handler's side.
5. On the command 'Halt' the handler should halt immediately and the dog should sit straight at the handler's side.
6. Turning manoeuvres must not be coupled together.
7. Following a turn, the handler and the dog must be allowed several paces if required to turn again.

HEELWORK ROUNDS / TURNS PERMITTED:

SLOW AND NORMAL PACE

1. 90° Left (Left Turn)
2. 90° Right (Right Turn)
3. 180° Left (Left About Turn)
4. 180° Right (About Turn)
5. Diagonal turn right (Diagonal Right Turn)
6. Diagonal turn left (Diagonal Left Turn)
7. Medium / large circles and Arcs

FAST PACE

1. 90° Left (Left Turn)
2. 90° Right (Right Turn)
3. 180° Right (About Turn)



25

Points

Sendaway and Down on Command

(Simultaneous command and signal applies)

1. Handler to send dog to an area indicated by the judge.
2. Handler to drop down the dog in the designated area.
3. Handler to walk up to the dog and release on steward's command. This concludes the exercise.
4. Simultaneous command and signal applies (the handler may give the dog's name AND one command AND one hand signal to send the dog).
 - i. Additional commands to will be penalised.

15

Points

A Recall (with commands)

1. This exercise can be done independently of the sendaway exercise where desired by the judge. If this exercise follows the sendaway exercise, the dog must be released in between.
2. Handler to set up the dog in the sit or down position on the handler's left-hand side (Handlers choice).
3. On command, the handler should walk away from the dog. Upon further instruction, while the handler is walking away from the dog in either a straight line or large anticlockwise circle, the handler should call the dog into the heel position and continue until instructed to stop.

30

Points

Retrieve Article (provided by the judge) (with commands)

1. The Article will be provided by the judge.
 - i. A fresh similar article will be supplied for each dog which must be appropriate for the size/breed of dog under test.
2. At the start of the exercise the dog should be sitting at the handler's side.
3. When the steward instructs, the handler must throw the article in the direction indicated.
4. The dog isn't allowed to move until the handler is instructed to send it to retrieve the article.
5. The dog should move out promptly at a smart pace to collect the article cleanly.
6. It should return with the article at a smart pace and sit straight in front of the handler.
7. On command the handler should take the article from the dog.
 - i. On further command to the handler the dog should be sent to heel.

30

Points

Scent

(Handler scent on cloth)

Test formed of six cloths arranged in a straight line in any direction.

No Extra commands allowed whilst the dog is over the Scent area.

The scent area will be designated by the judge.

The show society will supply all blank cloths.

1. Before the scent exercise commences, the judge will indicate the designated scent area. Commands may be given
 - i. **EXCEPT** when the dog is in the designated scent area where any extra commands will be penalised.
2. The cloth, supplied by the judge and given to the handler as they enter the ring the ring.
 - i. It will then be placed using tongs/gloves by the steward amongst the other cloths (in a position of the judge's choice).
3. Cloths must be placed in position by a steward and must be at least 1m (3ft) and not more than 1.6m (5ft) apart.
4. Any blank cloth which is fouled in any way (e.g. mouthed) must be replaced with a fresh cloth.
5. At the commencement of the test, the dog must be brought to a designated point.
 - i. While the scented cloth is placed in position, the dog must be facing away from the cloths.
6. When the cloths have been placed, the handler will turn the dog to face the cloths, and must give the dog scent from their hand, stand up straight and send the dog on command from the judge or steward to find the correct cloth.
7. The dog, on finding the correct cloth must then complete the test as the Retrieve Test.
 - i. Limiting the time for this test is at the Judge's discretion.
8. There will be no decoy cloths.
9. All scent cloths provided by the judge must be of the same texture and have a non-detachable

YKC HIGH FLYERS OBEDIENCE

4. Across all age categories, there is a soft-cap* of 15 spaces available for members to qualify for.
5. The allocation of spaces will be as follows:
 - i. 5 spaces for each 06-11 Years
 - ii. 5 spaces for each 12-17 Years
 - iii. 5 spaces for each 18-24 Years



Ideal distribution of available spaces

*If there are more than 15 unique 1st places across all YKCJC qualifiers, the YKC will honour each of them even if that means more than 15 total competitors

6. If an age category, does not manage to fill all 5 qualification spaces, the remaining spaces will be randomly (but evenly) distributed between the other age categories all 21 age category spaces are filled

i. Example:

EXAMPLE

- a. If the [06-11 Years] age category only has 4 qualification spaces filled, the remaining 3 spaces will be divided out between the [12-17 Years] & [18-24 Years] age categories as seen below:

- (1) [06-11 Years] = 2 Spaces
- (2) [12-17 Years] = 7 Spaces
- (3) [18-24 Years] = 6 Spaces

- (i) The total number of people qualifying for the High Flyers obedience final is still 15
- (ii) As in the above example, if an odd number of spaces are available to distribute, the extra space will be allocated to the youngest eligible age group.
- (iii) See below example

QUALIFICATION SPACES





**OBEDIENCE COMPETITIONS
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**SECTION 5:
SHOW SECRETARY INFORMATION**



SHOW SECRETARY INFORMATION

A:

DEFINITION

1. This section is for Show Secretaries that are holding YKC Crufts Obedience Qualifiers
 2. In this section you will find the following
 - b. Suggestions on how you may wish to run the classes
 - c. Latest schedule wording for YKC classes
 - d. What the YKC will supply before your show
 - e. What the YKC requires to be sent after the competition
-

B:

SUGGESTIONS ON HOLDING YKC OBEDIENCE CLASSES

1. When holding any a YKC Obedience Qualifier competition you will be effectively holding 9 classes per qualifier.
 - i. Because of this, we recommend running each class with all 3 age categories combined in the running order, but splitting out the scores into their distinct subcategories after the class is complete.
 - a. We recommend this as some class sizes maybe very small (typically the 6-11 age range)
 - (1) In class sizes that are very small, members are increasingly likely to miss their run as they may be busy running another course
 - b. All 9 subcategories should have different results and prize-givings



SHOW SECRETARY INFORMATION

C

SCHEDULE WORDING

1. YKC OBEDIENCE

- i. This schedule information MUST be read in conjunction with the full set of YKC Obedience rules available on the Young Kennel Club website:
- i. First place in each subcategory will guarantee qualification to Crufts 2024
 - a. Further qualification methods can be viewed by reading the full rules
 - b. You may enter this class even if you have previously qualified in this class
- ii. Competitors must already be a current YKC member before entering the show
- iii. Competitors must enter the age category they will be on the first day of this show
 - a. Age Categories:
 - (1) 06-11 Years
 - (2) 12-17 Years
 - (3) 18-24 Years
 - b. Please note: If you qualify for Crufts, you will compete in the appropriate age range on the first day of Crufts
 - (1) This may:
 - (i) Move a competitor into the next age range up
 - (ii) Ineligible for the finals at Crufts if you are 25 on or before the first day of Crufts
- iv. YKC Obedience classes are split into 3 difficulty categories:
 - a. **BASIC**
 - (1) You may enter this class if you and your dog are eligible for the following standard Kennel Club classes:
 - (i) Introductory
 - (ii) Pre-Beginners
 - b. **NOVICE**
 - (1) You may enter this class if you and your dog are eligible for the following standard Kennel Club classes:
 - (i) Pre-Beginners
 - (ii) Beginners
 - (iii) Novice
 - c. **HIGH FLYERS**
 - (1) You may enter this class if you and your dog are eligible for the following standard Kennel Club classes:
 - (i) Novice
 - (ii) Class A
 - (iii) Class B
 - (iv) Class C – See below
 - (a) Dogs that are only eligible for Class C may only be used if the dog is registered in the name of the YKC member or immediate parent and that member has trained the dog to its current standard.



SHOW SECRETARY INFORMATION

D: WHAT THE YKC WILL SUPPLY

1. Below is a list of items the YKC will supply for your show:
 - i. Obedience Qualifier
 - a. Rosettes & Certificates for the following:
 - (1) 3 sets of Basic 1st – 3rd
 - (2) 3 sets of Novice 1st – 3rd
 - (3) 3 sets of High Flyers 1st – 3rd
2. Please note, the YKC will NOT supply any of the following:
 - i. Trophies
 - ii. Rosettes or Certificates to lower placings
 - iii. Prize money
 - iv. Results sheet

E: WHAT THE YKC NEEDS BACK FROM YOU

1. A full set of results from each of the YKC qualifying classes including:
 - i. Class Name
 - ii. Place
 - iii. YKC Members Name
 - iv. YKC Membership Number
 - v. Dog's KC name
 - vi. Dog's KC number
 - vii. Scoresheet
2. The information above shall be required as soon as possible, but no later than 3 weeks after the last day of the show.
3. Please submit via email to: ykc@thekennelclub.org.uk



**OBEDIENCE COMPETITIONS
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**SECTION 6:
APPENDIX**

A:

CONSIDERED QUALIFICATION METHODS

1. The YKC have considered multiple different qualification techniques to choose which would be the best for our members which will be outlined below:
2. **First place only – Partially Accepted**
 - i. This method would require you to gain a 1st place at qualifying show. No other result would be acceptable.
 - ii. Pros
 - a. Very simple to understand
 - b. Guarantees a high standard of competitor
 - iii. Cons
 - a. If a competitor wins a qualifier, either:
 - (1) Any subsequent wins block other people from qualifying
 - (2) The competitor is forbidden to compete in this competition further
 - b. If one of the classes has no entries or all competitors are eliminated, the qualification space is lost
 - iv. Conclusion
 - a. For most YKC competitions, this method is too simplistic and would result in either 1 person blocking multiple people from qualifying or would bar a competitor from entering heats;
3. **League Table – Rejected**
 - i. This method would allocate points to each place (down to 20th) of the qualifier. Dog and Handlers would gain points at each show, with the highest X number of competitors making it through to the finals
 - ii. Pros
 - a. Each win or place gets you one step closer to the final
 - b. Competitors are allowed and encouraged to enter as many shows as possible
 - c. Makes use of all allocated spaces
 - iii. Cons
 - a. This method rewards competitors who are able to travel, rather than the highest skilled competitor
 - (1) Some families may not be in a financial position to travel to every YKC show, therefore making qualification potentially a question of: “are you rich enough to compete”
 - b. Winning a qualifying heat may not qualify you
 - c. You will only know if you have qualified at the end of the year
 - iv. Conclusion:
 - a. The YKC does not wish to implement a system whereby you must continually chase points. It is not our desire to make people poorer for attempting to qualify. League based systems work when qualifiers are all local, as the distance barrier is removed, however on a national scale, such as YKC qualifiers, it is not a fair method.

4. **First Place & Roll Down - *Rejected***

- i. This method is similar to the first method discussed, however, instead of previous winners blocking the progress other competitors, if a previous winner did win again, the qualification space would roll down to the next competitor in the category who had not yet qualified.
- ii. Pros
 - a. Largely well understood
 - b. Allows members who have already qualified to compete without withholding places from other competitors
- iii. Cons
 - a. A person coming 2nd at the first event of the season would not qualify whereas potentially a person coming 10th (for example) at the last event of the season might
 - (1) This would give an advantage to those entering shows at the end of the year
 - b. The roll down list would need serious thought into how dogs across different height categories would roll down
 - c. If any delay in gathering results occurs, it would be unclear if you have received a roll down place or not
 - d. It is not possible to guarantee the skill level based on a roll down system
 - e. If one of the classes has no entries or all competitors are eliminated, the qualification space is lost
- iv. Conclusion:
 - a. As the YKC shows are not evenly distributed throughout the UK at all times during the year, certain regions may find more of their shows at the beginning of the year, rather than end. People attending shows at the start of the year have less of a chance of qualifying. It also can be confusing and demoralising when someone who gained 10th place was able to qualify whereas your 2nd place does not.

5. **Points based system - *Rejected***

- i. A hybrid between a league and a first place only option, this method awarded points based on whether you came 1st [30 points], 2nd [15 points] or 3rd [10 Points]. If you accrued 30 points across the year then you successfully qualified.
- ii. Pros:
 - a. Once attaining 30 points, you were guaranteed a qualification space
 - b. Allows people who keep coming 2nd or 3rd to the same people a route to still qualify
 - c. Does not force anyone to chase points
- iii. Cons:
 - a. It was still possible for members to block progression for others as the points did not roll down.
 - (1) If there was a roll down of points, too many people would qualify
 - b. It was not clear how many competitors would qualify in a given year
- iv. Conclusion:
 - a. This was the YKC's preferred qualification method until 2023. Upon review, this method just pushes the blocking down to the third-place position, and attaining 3 x third places is challenging, especially in certain competitions. As such the YKC has moved to a different qualification method in 2023.

6. Giant Combined Scoresheet - Rejected

- i. This method would combine all of the results from every YKC qualifier into 1 giant results sheet. Instead of having course time and faults determine the winner, the course time would be converted into average speed (m/sec) by also capturing the course length.
- ii. Pros
 - a. This would capture dogs completing courses with the lowest score which should theoretically guarantee a level of skill
 - b. Promotes a healthy competitive scene a middling score may be insufficient to gain qualification.
- iii. Cons
 - a. Not all judges judge the same way – some judges may mark certain things more harshly for all competitors which would mean all competitors competing under a stricter judge will find it harder to qualify.
 - b. Additionally, weather conditions would also have a major impact on whether or not you had a good chance of qualifying for the finals, as poor weather conditions could adversely affect your performance.
 - c. Qualification would be unknown until the end of the year

7. Random Ballot - Rejected

- i. This method would get rid of all qualifiers and simply allow any member to submit a ballot and receive an equal chance of being selected to compete.
- ii. Pros
 - a. Very simple
 - b. Method of selection is “fair” – although problematic
- iii. Cons
 - a. Has nothing to do with skill
 - b. Does not promote the activity of participating in obedience
 - c. No guarantee of any obedience prowess
 - (1) Even if you have a Class C dog, if the handler has 0 experience, then the dog is not guaranteed to perform well
 - d. Just opting for a ballot removes all YKC qualifiers and removes opportunities for our members to compete against those in a similar age bracket
- iv. Conclusion
 - a. The YKC wants to promote youth competitions, not remove them.

8. Top X invited to a semi-final - Rejected

- i. This method would see the top X number of competitors from each qualifying heat invited to complete in a semi-final (location unknown) before Crufts, with the placings of that determining who is invited to Crufts.
- ii. Pros
 - a. By condensing the qualification process down to a competition, all competitors who make it to the semi-finals have the same chance, over the same course, in the same conditions to qualify.
 - b. Would allow the qualifiers to let through more participants
 - c. Could allow more qualifiers as the burden of qualifying for Crufts is up to the semi-final, not the qualifying heats
 - (1) One of the largest problems we have for Crufts qualifiers is that Crufts is only 4 days long. Trying to cram every dog discipline with multiple classes, each with 3 age categories is incredibly difficult and heavily restricts the number of qualifiers we are able to offer to clubs.

- iii. Cons:
 - a. Location. If we were to hold a 1-day semi-final it would have to take place in the midlands (we would need to be as equally unfair to Scotland as we would be to Cornwall). This in itself makes it unfair if you live nowhere near the midlands.
 - b. The semi-final would need to be held in November, after all our qualifiers had concluded. Holding an event in November would necessitate that it must be an indoor venue.
- iv. Conclusion:
 - a. This option was heavily considered, but ultimately rejected based on the two cons above. Members from Northern Ireland, Scotland and any of the south coastal regions of England would be disenfranchised by a centralised semi-final.

9. Waterfall Method – Accepted

- i. This method would see all those getting 1st place qualifying for final. Any qualification spaces not filled by the 1st places would be randomly awarded to competitors who achieved a 2nd place at qualifiers. Any qualification spaces not filled by the 2nd Places would be randomly awarded to competitors who achieved 3rd place. Etc
- ii. Pros
 - a. 1st Place Guarantees qualification
 - b. No member can block the qualification of another member
 - c. All competitors who achieved a certain place are on an equal footing
 - (1) E.g. all 2nd place competitors in a subcategory are just as likely to be selected as each other
 - d. Because qualification is only awarded at the end of the year, all qualification spots can be filled
- iii. Cons:
 - a. One of the most complicated qualification methods
 - b. All those who did not come first will need to wait till the qualification year is over to know if they have qualified
 - c. Randomly allocated spaces can feel unfair if you were unsuccessful
- iv. Conclusion:
 - a. The YKC will try out this new method of qualification across all of its qualifiers, whilst it does have some issues, namely the complexity and the late announcement of who has qualified, the YKC believes this method will strike a balance between allowing previously qualified members to continue competing and to allow those not yet qualified to still have a chance of reaching the finals.