

Discussion item for OLC meeting scheduled for 23rd January 2025.

A question has been raised as to do we have consistency on the interpretation for the A Recall and/or do we need to clarify the wording. The question has arisen regarding the last sentence as to what constitutes the handler walking directly towards their dog after calling the dog.

Please note this does not apply to the recall from a send away (Class B and C).

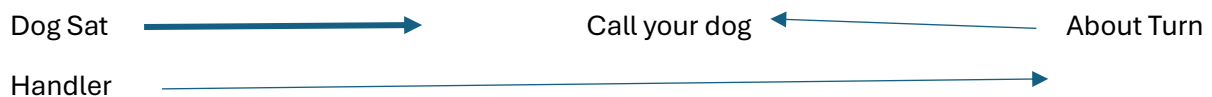
Current Wording.

G(C) 4. Tests f. Recall

(3) Class A: The handler will be instructed to leave the dog in the sit or down position (handler's choice of position) and walk away from the dog. Upon further instruction, whilst the handler is walking away from the dog, the handler shall command the dog to come to the heel position and continue the heelwork until instructed to stop. The point at which the dog is called to heel and the halt point shall be the same for all dogs. After calling the dog to heel at no time shall the handler walk directly towards it.

There is no ambiguity if on a direct line towards the dog: Figure 1 is not within regulations.

FIGURE 1



The debate has arisen when there is a diagonal created when leaving your dog and between calling the dog and the pick-up, when the handler has not passed their dog. The distance between dog and handler is decreasing and the dog is therefore in front of the handler. Once called, at some stage the dog must do a U turn to get into the heelwork position and could arguably be seen as directly in front.

FIGURE 2 with left diagonal turn dog comes into side of handler.

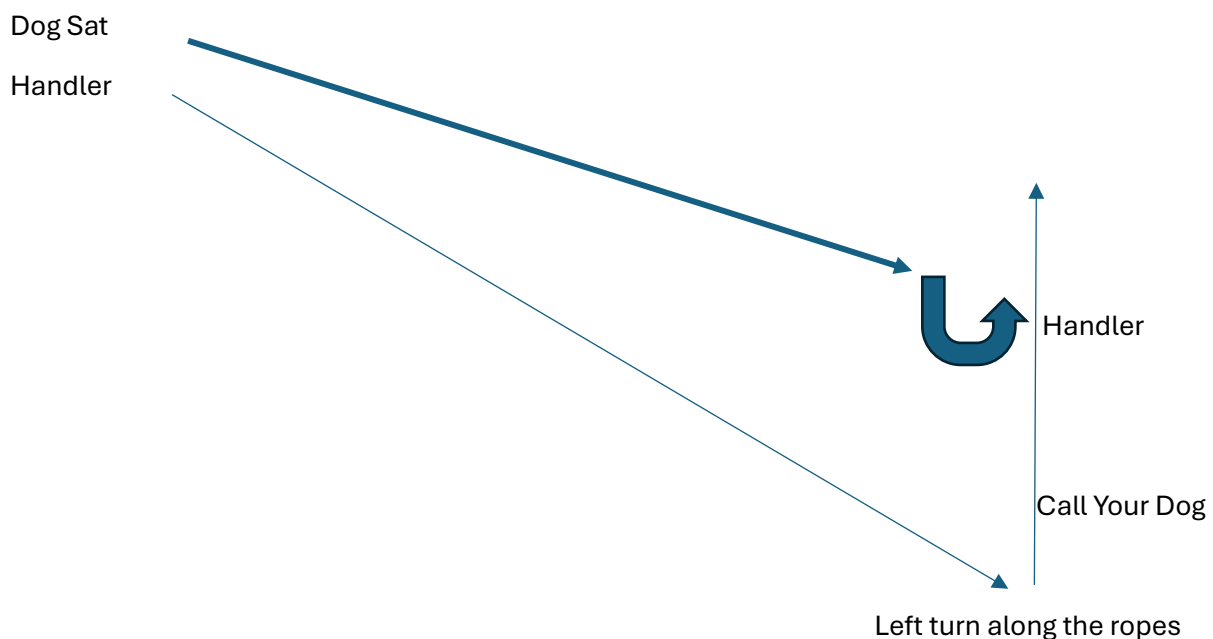
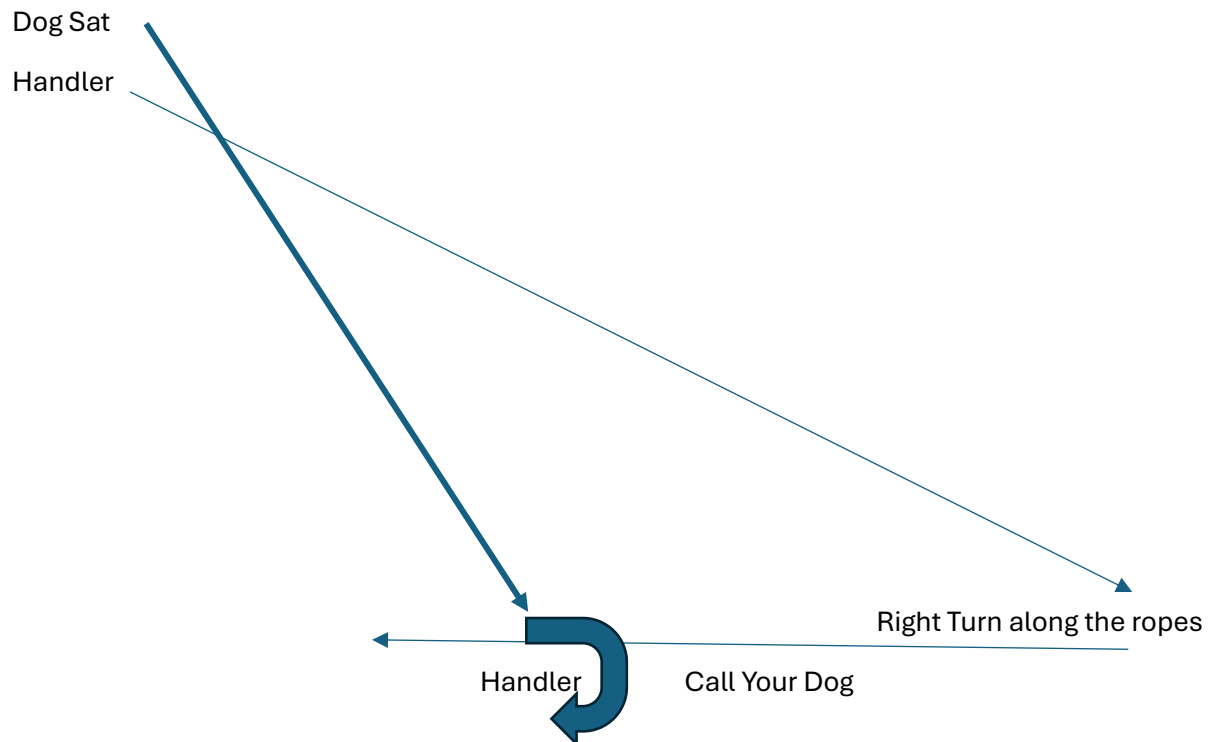


FIGURE 3 with right diagonal turn – dog must go behind the handler.



Options:

1. Leave as it stands and confirm it is just Figure 1 that is outside of regulations and this is what is meant as directly walking towards the dog.
2. For an A Recall consider if the intention is for a pick-up to be when the dog is behind the handler. i.e. any instance where a dog is in front of the handler and would need the dog to do a U turn to collect alongside the handler constitutes walking directly towards the handler. In which case all three figures above would be outside of regulations.

If looking at Option 2 then it may well be advisable to clarify the wording as to what is meant by directly walking towards the dog. i.e. *any instance where a dog is in front of the handler and would need the dog to do a U turn to collect alongside the handler constitutes walking directly towards the dog.*