DOGS VICTORIA

REG. NO. A0023882W

REGULATIONS

PART 9-OBEDIENCE, TRACKING AND ENDURANCE

Last update: 15 January 2026

To be read in conjunction with DOGS AUSTRALIA Regulations, Codes & Policies

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9 - OBEDIENCE, TRACKING AND ENDURANCE

9.1 TRIALS

9.1.1 Judging and Stewarding (Amended 15/06/24, 15/08/18)

No member of a judge's immediate family or household, including a person who resides at the same address, is permitted to compete in the ring, track or test where that judge is officiating.

A steward may not officiate in a ring, on a track or in a test where a member of their immediate family is competing.

9.1.2 Scheduled Classes

9.1.2.1 - *Submission of draft fixture schedules and judges' contracts* - deleted (duplication) refer to regulation 3.4.12 (15/01/26)

All rules, regulations, definitions or instructions in the nature of Rules and Regulations printed in the schedule shall be deemed to be Regulations of the show or other exhibitions and shall have the same effect as if they formed part of these Regulations, provided they are not inconsistent with these Regulations. The Obedience, Tracking and Endurance schedule shall contain:

9.1.2.1.1 The date on which the entries close as the first item appearing on the first page of the prize schedule.

9.1.2.1.2 Notification to the effect that the body is affiliated with Dogs Victoria and that the exhibition is held under the Rules and Regulations of Dogs Victoria and that a copy of them may be perused at the office of the Secretary of the Exhibition.

9.1.2.1.3 The name of the Affiliate conducting the exhibition.

9.1.2.1.4 The correct status of the exhibition, whether it is an open or restricted event.

9.1.2.1.5 The name and address of the venue on which the exhibition is to be held.

9.1.2.1.6 The date on which the exhibition is to be held.

9.1.2.1.7 The address to which entries are to be sent and the telephone number of the club or Trial Secretary.

9.1.2.1.8 The name of each Judge and the class/es allocated to that Judge.

9.1.2.1.9 The price and ordering instructions, of catalogues (if applicable).

9.1.2.1.10 Entry fees per class.

9.1.2.1.11 Time that judging will commence.

9.1.2.1.12 Advice as to the availability of catering for exhibitors.

9.1.2.1.13 List of the trophies and sashes to be awarded.

9.1.2.2 All Classes scheduled must be conducted by the Affiliate

9.1.2.3 The value of first place prizes shall be at least equal to the entry fee. Sponsors products shall not be included in the value of the prize. (15/02/16)

9.1.3 **Cancelled Fixtures**

9.1.3.1 Prior to the commencement of a Trial, where conditions are deemed to be unsafe for dogs or competitors to compete, the affiliate conducting the fixture may cancel the trial after consultation with the VCA Representative, officiating judge/s or the Office Operations Manager of Dogs Victoria. Alternatively, where the majority of Judges present and officiating at the fixture decide that conditions are unsuitable, they will instruct the Committee to cancel the Trial. Under the aforementioned circumstances all entry fees shall be refunded to all exhibitors who are in attendance at the cancelled fixture.

If the conditions are considered to be unsafe as a result of extreme weather, refer to Regulations 3.5.20 and 9.6. (15/12/25)

9.1.3.2 (Revoked 15/12/25)

9.1.4 Trial Entries

9.1.4.1 All details must be clearly shown on the entry form.

9.1.4.2 Acknowledgment of receipt of postal entries will only be given if a stamped self-addressed envelope is included with the entry form. Online entries will be acknowledged. (15/02/16)

9.1.4.3 Requests for catalogue order or a specific judge will not be approved, except where the exhibitor has two passes towards a title under a particular Judge or in the case of a Tracking or Track and Search title one pass under a particular judge, or where Regulation 9.1.4.4 applies. (15/02/16)

9.1.4.4 No person shall enter or handle in any fixture under any Judge who has had a proprietary interest in a dog or dogs either solely or in partnership with such person at any time during the preceding 12 months. (15/02/16)

9.1.4.5 No person shall exhibit or handle under a judge if that judge has handled any dog owned or part owned or leased or part leased by that person within the previous 12 months. (15/02/16)

9.1.4.6 A dog having been entered by the scheduled closing date of a fixture, and if a title has been gained in Obedience or Rally ~~Obedience~~ prior to the date of the fixture, and if the title application has been lodged with the Member body, is able to upgrade to the next class at the discretion of the affiliate conducting the fixture. (Amended 15/01/23, 15/02/16)

9.1.5 Cataloguing

The Obedience, Tracking and Endurance catalogue shall contain:

9.1.5.1 The name of the Affiliate conducting the fixture.

9.1.5.2 The correct status of the fixture.

9.1.5.3 A notification to the effect that the body is affiliated with Dogs Victoria and that the fixture is held under the Rules and Regulations of Dogs Victoria and that a copy may be perused at the office of the Secretary of the fixture.

9.1.5.4 The name and address of the venue at which the fixture is being held.

9.1.5.5 The date/s on which the fixture is being held.

9.1.5.6 List of Office bearers and Committee of the Affiliate conducting the fixture (optional).

9.1.5.7 List of Judges showing their judging commitments as per the prize schedule.

9.1.5.8 Time at which judging will commence.

9.1.5.9 Notification of any alterations to the prize schedule.

9.1.5.10 Name of Dogs Victoria Representative and any photographer.

9.1.5.11 List of trophies, sashes and awards including any special breed sashes or trophies.

9.1.5.12 Each entry to show the name of the exhibitor, the name of the exhibit and the exhibit number.

9.1.5.13 The precincts of the Trial.

9.1.6 Special Class

9.1.6.1 The provision of a special class at an Obedience Trial is optional.

9.1.6.2 The exercises conducted in these classes are at the discretion of the Affiliate.

9.1.6.3 In the case of veterans classes, exhibits must be seven (7) years or older and not be entered in an DOGS AUSTRALIA recognised class on the same day.

9.1.7 Restricted Obedience Trials

Subject to application, "Restricted Trials" may be held on a date other than the Affiliate's Championship or Open Show.

9.1.8 Check in Procedures

Bitches in oestrum or showing any coloured discharge are not permitted to compete in a Trial nor remain in the precincts of a Trial.

Affiliates conducting Obedience, Tracking or Endurance Tests must adopt the following procedures:

9.1.8.1 Exhibit cards shall be prepared in advance for all bitches scheduled to compete at the fixture. Bitches cards must not be stamped "pass to ring" at that point in time.

9.1.8.2 All exhibit numbers must be collected and bitches inspected during the advertised check in time.

9.1.8.3 A separate area staffed by a person authorised by the Affiliate conducting the trial will be set aside by the Affiliate for the purpose of examining the bitches

9.1.8.4 All bitches must be hygienically examined for traces of blood or any coloured discharge in the vulva.

9.1.8.5 On confirming that the bitch had no coloured discharge or is not in oestrum, the exhibit card shall then be stamped "pass to ring"

9.1.8.6 It is the responsibility of the Affiliate to ensure that the check in closes at the advertised time

9.1.8.7 Exhibit cards must be stamped "pass to ring" for both dogs and bitches prior to an exhibit being permitted to compete.

9.1.9 Precincts of the Trial

9.1.9.1 The trial management committee will determine the precincts of the Trial.

9.1.9.2 The training of dogs off lead within these precincts is not permitted, except where space permits practice rings may be set up at least twenty metres from the trial rings, provided they are used only prior to the commencement of or after the completion of judging.

9.1.9.2.1 Scheduled Learners Rings must be located within the trial precincts and may be run in conjunction with the trial. (15/02/16)

9.1.9.3 Prior arrangements may be made with the trial secretary for rings to be used for Judges training and assessment.

9.1.10 Judging Procedures

9.1.10.1 Judging of Obedience Trials must commence at the scheduled time with the scratching being available to the Judges prior to the commencement of judging.

9.1.10.2 Where a contracted Judge does not attend within 30 minutes of the scheduled start time for that judge, the organising affiliate is to appoint a suitably qualified replacement judge.

9.1.10.3 In any case where a judge does not attend as contracted, the organising Affiliate is to provide a written report to Dogs Victoria Office within ten (10) days, providing all known details to the reason for the nonattendance of the contracted Judge and the reason for selecting the substitute Judge.

9.1.11 Judging Rings

9.1.11.1 Utility Dog rings are not to be erected adjacent to each other i.e. not side by side or end to end. Utility Dog Excellent rings are not to be erected adjacent to each other i.e. not side by side or end to end. Utility Dog and Utility Dog Excellent rings are not to be erected adjacent to each other i.e. not side by side or end to end. (Amended 15/03/23)

9.1.11.2 Affiliates conducting Obedience activities must provide appropriate equipment to maintain cleanliness of the ring.

9.1.11.3 A small table must also be placed in each ring.

9.1.11.4 Special rings may be provided for group stay exercises. Such rings must be at least 15 metres by 20 metres.

9.1.12 Conduct of Tracking Trials

9.1.12.1 The judging of Tracking Trials must commence at the scheduled time, with preparation of tracks completed prior to the scheduled judging time.

9.1.12.2 No person competing in a trial may take part in the setting out of tracks or preparation of maps for tracks on which they may be competing.

9.1.12.3 Where there is an excess of entries, a ballot must take place for Tracks. After all Tracks have been allotted, a further ballot may be conducted for emergency exhibits, which may be required on the day.

9.1.12.4 Any ballot for Tracks must be conducted in public, and its location, date and time must be advertised on the Trial Schedule.

9.1.12.5 Exhibitors unsuccessful in a ballot shall have their entry fee refunded forthwith.

9.1.12.6 A dog having been entered by the scheduled closing date of a Tracking or Track and Search Trial and having gained a pass at a previous fixture is able to upgrade to the next level test. If a title has been gained, the title application must be lodged with the Member Body. (15/02/16)

9.1.13 Tracking On

Tracking On, i.e. the conduct of a second track at a Tracking Trial, for a qualifying dog, when and where a track is available may be conducted. The Affiliate must obtain Victorian Canine Association Inc permission to conduct tracking on, prior to the Trial. Subject to a track being available a competitor entered in the Trial and otherwise eligible may submit an entry on the day for that available track.

In the event that more than one dog is eligible to track on a ballot must be conducted.

A Judge is only permitted to judge Track On tests once all their balloted exhibitors for that day have been judged and all eligible tests to Track On at that level have been completed by all judges.

A Trial may be held over one or more days.

9.1.14 Judges contracted to judge at a Tracking or a Track and Search trial may compete at the discretion of the affiliate conducting the trial. (15/02/16)

9.2 OBEDIENCE, TRACKING AND ENDURANCE JUDGES TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT

Delete 9.2.1 – 9.2.12.7 (15/02/16)

9.2.1 The current Obedience Tracking and Endurance Committee Judging Training Scheme document can be sourced from Dogs Victoria office or the website. (15/02/16)

9.3 JUDGES DRESS CODE

DOGS AUSTRALIA judges should dress in a manner befitting an official, taking into consideration the weather conditions. (15/02/16)

9.4 RULE CHANGES

Following any Rule changes by the DOGS AUSTRALIA, all Judges must attend Lectures conducted to explain/discuss such Rule changes. Non-attendance will result in suspension of licence until this requirement has been met.

9.5 Deleted (15/12/23, 15/04/19)

9.6 EXTREME WEATHER - OBEDIENCE, TRACKING & ENDURANCE (15/12/25)

9.6.1 DEFINITIONS
Refer to Regulation 3.2
9.6.2 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES
Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.3

9.6.3 AFFILIATE RESPONSIBILITIES
Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.4

Affiliates are to consider rescheduling the starting time to either early morning or later in the evening, if, because of the location and/or the time of the year, a trial could be affected by high temperatures
9.6.4 CANCELLATION OF AN EVENT
Refer to Regulations 3.5.20.4 and 3.5.20.5, excepting that for Endurance when the temperature reaches 24 degrees Celsius, the test is to be cancelled, regardless of what stage the test has reached
9.6.5 'WAIT AND SEE' APPROACH – JUDGING TO BE SUSPENDED
Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.6
9.6.6 'WAIT AND SEE' APPROACH – JUDGING MAY CONTINUE
Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.7
9.6.7 POSTPONEMENT, RELOCATION (INCLUDES MOVE INDOORS) AND CHANGE OF COMMENCEMENT TIME
Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.8
9.6.8 LIGHTNING AND THUNDER
Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.9
9.6.9 REFUNDS OF ENTRY FEES FOR EVENTS CANCELLED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER
Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.10

9.6.10 STATUS OF AWARDS WHEN AN EVENT IS CANCELLED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER

The qualifying scores will stand for any competitor who has completed all relevant class exercises prior to a trial being suspended and subsequently cancelled.