



Sport Dog Association events are open to all breeds including mixed breed or altered.

<https://sportdogassociation.com/>

## **Sport Dog Association Obedience 1-3**

**Test is open to all breeds including mixed breed and/or altered over 1 year of age.**

Sport Dog Obedience offers levels 1 through 3 to earn a certificate. Each level of obedience will gradually get more difficult as you advance to the next level. You must complete the first level to continue to the next level of obedience title. Obedience is scored by a point system 100 is highest score and needing 80 points to pass.

Obedience pattern typically follows the standard 'L' pattern (Obedience consists of healing, sit, down, recall, left, right turn and about turn optional). Judges are encouraged to use surrounding environment when laying out the field and have the option to change the pattern to accommodate space available.

Field may be marked out with cones, paint or judge can call out speed, direction, or position changes. This will be at judge's discretion for field layout.

Obedience can be done with flat collar or choke/fur saver chain on the dead ring.

Heel position to the left or right leg of the handler should stay clear and consistent throughout test. Judge is looking for control, understanding positions and commands between handler and dog. Commands are allowed at every position change or direction change. Heel position is to be consistent through out the test to have the understanding of the position.

Obedience 1 – On Leash

Obedience 2 – Off Leash

Obedience 3 – Off Leash with Distractions

Distractions can include but not limited to: Toys; bite equipment; decoys; gunfire

Completion of Obedience 1 will account for the obedience portion required to compete in the Courage and Protection testing to obtain a title. (Please see Sport Dog Protection and Courage test rules).

Points will be deducted for lagging/forging in heel position, multiple requests or slow to complete commands, dog loses focus on handler, etc. As the levels increase more points are deducted for the above. For example, level one obedience deduct is .5 points as for level 2 one deduct will account for a full point.

#### Rules

Any "finish" is acceptable.

Leash no longer than 6 feet.

Leash is to have a U shape and never to be tight or restricting of free movement.

Recall can be from any position.

All commands must be heard by judge (can be duplicated with hand signals but cannot be over exaggerated)

No E-collars, Pinch collars, harness, or muzzles allowed.

No food or treats allowed in pockets or on the field during test.

NO corrections verbal or physical

Judging starts as soon as the dog and handler cross the start line. The first portion is judged on the Heel position and control. Speed and style are not judged or required.

Positions (Sit and Down) are judged on the understanding of the position giving a few secs to allow the dog to stay in that position and not move before moving forward.

“help” is allowed if a verbal command is given with a hand gesture but may be a deduct of points as the levels increase.

Left and Right Turn are judged if the dog is still in motion. The Speed or “tightness” of turn is not to be required. A verbal command is allowed to redirect the path of heel with no deduct of points.

If team passes a Level 1 Obedience they are allowed to “bump up” in same day of event. Must wait till all same levels compete before going back on the field. This is to allow the judge to set the field up for the different levels.

No other dogs are allowed on the field during Obedience trials

Level 3 Obedience will have distractions per judges discretion.

This may include moving decoys and/ helpers fully suited with equipment. Toys in the path of heeling, moving objects/ toys, working equipment on field and obstacles to walk over. This is to prove the dogs understanding of heeling and not leaving the handler to reward its self, or play. There will be no living animals used as a distraction.

**\*\*\*HANDLER MEETING WILL ALWAYS TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO EVENT, ALL DOG HANDLERS ENTERED ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE PART, TO INSURE UNDERSTANDING OF PROCEDURE, RULES AND MOST IMPORTANTLY SAFETY FOR YOUR DOG, DECOY, JUDGE AND BI-STANDERS\*\*\***