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## EXPLANATION OF DEDUCTIONS

The purpose of this scoresheet is for the Judge to use it as a tool for scoring the exhibit against a standard of performance, and also for the exhibitor to see how they performed and learn what areas need improvement.

Some explanations of deductions are listed below for your learning convenience, however members, parents and leaders are encouraged to get current copies of the AKC obedience regulations or read them online at [www.AKC.org](http://www.AKC.org)

Judges may judge and mark any occurrences that happen in the ring, whether they are listed or spelled out in the regulations or not, as needed. There are many gray areas that judges may make decisions on.

**Although the AKC rule book is used as a guide, Judges should keep in mind when judging 4-H members the appropriate development stage and expectations from the 4-H member's age group.**

**Scoring - Minor penalty - 1/2 point to 2-1/2 points    Substantial penalty - 3 points or more**

Some of the faults listed on the scoresheet are self explanatory. If any of the following is marked on the front of the score sheet, this is what might have happened:

**Heeling exercises- Heel Position.** The heel position applies whether the dog is sitting, standing, lying down, or moving at heel. The dog should be at the handler's left side straight in line with the direction the handler is facing. The area from the dog's head to shoulder is to be in line with the handler's left hip. The dog should be close to, but not crowding, it's handler so that the handler has freedom of motion at all times.

**Brisk, briskly** - keenly alive, alert, energetic. Handler needs to walk briskly.

**Constant tugging on leash or Guiding** - Tugging or keeping the leash up tight without clip hanging down and sufficient length of leash hanging down.

**Continually adapts pace to dog** - If dog changes pace on it's own, handler slows or speeds up to dog's pace.

**Crooked or Poor Sit** - a dog that is not straight in line with the direction the handler is facing. May be at side or in front.

**Crowding** - a dog so close to handler as to interfere with handler's freedom of motion.

**Gently** - with kindness, without harshness or roughness.

**Guiding gently by the collar** - control of the dog by holding any part of the collar with minimal pressure on the dog's neck.

**Forging** - Dog moving ahead of heel position.

**Hands on leash** - The leash may be held in either hand or both hands, but the hands must be held in a natural position.

**Hands off leash** - (1) When the handler is in motion, the arms and hands must move naturally at the sides

(2) The left hand must be held against the front of the body, centered in the area of the waist, with the left forearm carried against the body.

The hands and arms may be adjusted during the fast portion of an exercise.

Substantial deduction if the hands and arms are not carried as stated above.

**Hands - Recall or position any time a dog returns to the front of handler** - In any exercise that the dog returns to sit in front, the handler's arms and hands must hang naturally at the sides until the dog has sat in front.

**Heeling wide** - Dog moving out far from side of handler.

**Lagging** - Dog moving behind heel position .

**Natural** - not artificial; free of affectation; what is customarily expected in the home or public places

**No change of pace** - Handler and dog do not noticeably accelerate on the fast or decelerate on the slow.

**No Sits** - on the score sheet may refer to in front of or at the side of handler

**Unmanageable** - Dog is not under control and/or not responding to handler.

**Unqualified Heeling** - Dog may not be continually working, or heels on the wrong side of the handler for a substantial part of the exercise.

### Stand for Exam

**Resentment** - resistance, unwillingness

**Moves away** - Dog moved all four feet away from the place where the dog was left.

### Recall

**Directly** - immediately, without deviation or hesitation, in a straight line

**Drop completely** - a down position that would be acceptable for a Long Down exercise

**Prompt response** - without hesitation, immediate, quick

### Long sit or down

**Forcing** - Physically putting the dog into position, by touching dog or by collar.

**Did not remain in place** - Dog lifts rear end off ground on sit, as opposed to shifting weight in place.

On Down, dog moves a complete body's length forward, or sideways, from where it was left.

**Dog placed so it interferes with adjacent dog** - Dog placed at angle making it closer to and faces another dog.

**Misbehavior:** Any display of fear or nervousness by the dog or any uncontrolled behavior such as snapping, barking, or running away from its handler.