

MASCA Obedience and Acrobatics Program Proposal Overview

Classes to be considered:

Introduction (I-M)	Single Novice (AS-N)	Group Novice (AG-N)
Novice (ND-M)	Single Open (AS-O)	Group Open (AG-O)
Open (OD-M)	Single Advanced (AS-A)	Group Advanced (AG-A)
Utility (UD-M)		

MASCA Obedience Rules and Regulations (See Acrobatics Rules and Regulations at the end of this document)

Purpose: The purpose of obedience trials is to showcase the working partnership between handler and dog. Obedience is a sport and, as such, should be governed by the principles of good sportsmanship in and out of the ring.

Ring Size: The optimum size of an indoor ring should be 40' x 50'. In NO CASE shall the Utility ring be less than 35' x 50'. For Introduction, Novice, Open, and Acrobatics classes, the ring shall not be less than 30' x 40'. Outdoor rings are to be 40' x 50'.

Holding a trial:

A trial may be a stand alone event or may be held with a conformation, Rally, obedience, or herding event. Clubs or groups wishing to hold a trial must submit a request to the MASCA board 30 days in advance of the trial.

Obedience level: Hosting club may host any or all levels. Handlers may enter a dog in any level, as lower level titles are not required. However, after entering a level, dog must then acquire a title before entering a higher level. Dogs may stay in the same level after title is earned. Only one entry per trial is allowed. Clubs may hold MASCA only trials or may elect to open their trials to all breed or mixed breed dogs.

Eligible dogs: All dogs at least 6 months old at the date of the trial are eligible to compete in classes that have no jump (Introduction and Novice). Dogs must be one year old to compete in any class with a jump (Open and Utility).

Any dog registered with MASCA may compete. Clubs may elect to open trials to dogs not registered with MASCA. Any dog not registered with MASCA may compete in a MASCA obedience trial and receive points and titles through MASCA, if the handler completes the form to request a tracking number and submits it with a \$5 fee to MASCA. (see form)

Entry form: (see forms)

Judges qualifications:

Judges qualifications:

Persons applying to judge or asked to judge at MASCA obedience events should meet the following criteria:

- Introduction and Novice Levels: 3 Novice level (Companion Dog) titles
- Open Level: 3 Novice level titles and 2 Open level (CDX) titles
- Utility Level and above: 3 Novice Level, 2 Open level, and 1 Utility level title

Qualifying titles may be earned from MASCA, AKC, ASCA, CDSP, UKC, or other venues approved by the MASCA board. Judge applicants may earn titles from different registries on the same dog, however, the 3 novice and 2 open level titles must have been earned on 2 or more different dogs. Judges that do not meet the above requirements must receive special approval by the MASCA Board. Provisional judges are encouraged to apply.

Judges may show their own dogs at MASCA obedience trials at which they are judging. However, they must show in a special judges class and be judged by another MASCA approved obedience judge on that day. They may receive a qualifying ribbon or certificate; however, they will not be eligible for obedience placement ribbons or prizes.

Judges will review the MASCA Obedience Judge's Handbook, including Rules and Regulations, Exercise Descriptions, and Scoring Guidelines prior to judging trials and matches.

Qualifying Scores: A perfect score shall consist of 200 points. A qualifying score means that the dog and handler have earned more than 50 percent of the points for each exercise with a total score of at least 170.

Placements: Certificates, prizes or ribbons may be given for each dog and handler team who receives a qualifying score. Placement certificates, prizes, ribbons, or awards will be given for dogs and handlers for first, second, third, and fourth places. The hosting club will have the option of offering High in Trial. Dogs and handlers who do not receive a qualifying score will not receive placement certificates, prizes, ribbons, or awards. New title ribbons may be given at the club's discretion.

In the event that two or more dogs in the same class or competing for High in Trial receive the same score, the judge will conduct a run-off. The run-off will consist of each team performing the heeling L pattern. Introduction dogs will perform on lead. Novice, Open and Utility dogs will perform off lead. The judge will mark the winning dog's score sheet with a plus sign after the score and note that a runoff for placement occurred.

Titles: A dog who earns three qualifying scores of 170 or better under two different judges in the Introduction class shall earn the title Introductory Dog, MASCA or I-M. A dog who earns three qualifying scores of 170 or better under two different judges in the Novice class shall earn the title Novice Dog, MASCA or ND-M. Dogs who earn three qualifying scores of 170 or better under two different judges in the Open class shall earn the title Open Dog, MASCA or OD-M. A dog who earns three qualifying scores of 170 or better under two different judges in the Utility class shall earn the title Utility Dog, MASCA or UD-M.

After earning the MASCA Utility Dog Title and five subsequent qualifying scores of 170 or above in the Utility class, a dog will be awarded the Utility Dog Excellent, MASCA or UDX-M title.

A dog who has earned the Utility Dog title and has received subsequent scores of 185 or greater will be eligible to earn points toward the Obedience Trial Championship Title. A dog who accumulates 100 points from those subsequent scores will be awarded the title Obedience Trial Champion, MASCA or OTCH-M. This title will appear before the dog's registered name.

<u>Scores</u>	<u>Points</u>
200	20
199	15
197-198	12
195-196	10
193-194	8
191-192	6
189-190	4
187-188	2
185-186	1

Equipment: Dogs will be shown on a plain buckle, snap or well-fitted martingale collar. Harnesses or front control harnesses may be used in the Introduction Level only. Training collars such as chain, slip, prong, or shock collars will NOT be allowed. Gentle leaders and No-jump harnesses will not be allowed. Tags should

be removed from the collar or harness before competition. The leash shall be of leather or fabric and four to six feet in length.

Treats: Treats may be given in the ring at the Introduction and Novice Levels only. A treat may only be given after the judge says, "Exercise finished." and before the judge announces the next exercise. Treats are not to be given during the performance of any exercise. Any dropped treats are to be picked up by the handler before he or she leaves the ring. Clickers and toys will not be permitted in the ring.

Premium (see form)

Obedience trial committee An obedience trial committee shall include, but is not limited to, an Obedience Trial Chairperson and an Obedience Trial Secretary. The Obedience Trial Chairperson may serve as the Obedience Trial Secretary.

The Trial Chairperson is responsible for:

- Obtaining the trial location
- Securing sanctioning from MASCA
- Arranging for a judge
- Ordering ribbons, prizes, certificates, or awards
- Making sure all equipment is at the trial site ready to go
- Arranging for table and ring stewards and other trial personnel
- Printing the premium and/or arranging for it to be posted on line
- Ensuring that all paperwork is correct and submitted to MASCA

The Trial Secretary is responsible for:

- Accepting entries and fees
- Preparing numbered armbands or stickers for competitors
- Assigning numbers to competitors and writing them on score sheets
- Acting as the contact person for exhibitors
- Tracking requests for refund

The day of the show, the Trial Secretary will be responsible for:

- Checking in exhibitors and providing armbands or stickers
- Checking that the handler is entered in the right class
- Filling in score sheet information for day of show entries
- Adding day of show entries to the judge's sheet
- Giving the completed score sheets to the table steward
- Ensuring that all paperwork is complete and signed by the judge
- Making sure the judge gets paid

Other personnel

- Awards chairman (may be handled by the table steward)
- Judge
- Table steward
- Two ring stewards
- Any other personnel deemed by the chairperson to help the event run smoothly

Equipment provided by the trial giving club

- General:
- Ring gates to enclose one or more 40' by 50' rings
 - Table and chairs for the trial secretary
 - Table and chairs for the judge and table steward
 - Large easel and board for posting running order and scores
 - Ribbon, certificates, prizes, or awards
 - Numbered stickers or armbands and rubber bands
 - Clipboard for each judge, score sheets and judge's sheets
 - Pens and a bold line marker
 - Tape measure or yardstick
 - Calculator

Introduction : 10' to 20' long line
 2 6" to 24" traffic cones
 Novice: Stopwatch
 Open: bar jump and broad jump
 Utility: obedience bar jump and high jump **or**
 agility bar jump and panel jump

Jump heights: No jump height cards will be required for MASCA Obedience. A handler who is entered in a class requiring jumps will be asked by the ring steward what height (and in the broad jump what distance) he wishes the jump to be placed. Surfaces may differ at various facilities. In this way, a handler may advocate for his dog by choosing a lower jump height when conditions are less than ideal or the dog is young, elderly, has sustained a previous injury, is a giant or short legged breed, etc. Jumps will not be set higher than 26" for any dog.

Standard jumping height is considered to be the nearest even numbered increment to the height of the dog at the withers. Those handlers interested in jumping standard heights for their dogs are encouraged to consider this table:

Height of dog at the withers	High jump	Broad jump	# of boards
Less than 12 ½ in.	8-12"	16-24"	2
12 ½ to less than 15 in.	12-14"	24-28"	2,3
15 to less than 17 ½ in.	16-18"	32-36"	3
17 ½ to less than 20 in	18-20"	36-40"	3
20 to less than 23 in.	20-22"	40-44"	3
23 to less than 25 ½ in.	24-26"	48-52"	4
25 ½ or greater	26"	52"	4

OBEDIENCE CLASSES OFFERED:

Introduction Level (200 points)

- 1. On leash heeling 70 pt
 - 2. On leash figure 8 30 pt
 - 3. Friendly greeting on sit stay 30 pt
 - 4. Recall on leash from sit stay, no finish 50 pt
 - 5. Honor dog 20 pt
- No group stays.

INTRODUCTION OBEDIENCE EXERCISE DESCRIPTIONS

Introduction Level 200 points

The Honor dog and handler will enter the ring and go to the spot designated by the judge.

The working handler will enter the ring with the dog on lead and stand at the beginning of the heeling pattern. If this is the first dog, the judge will have one of the stewards walk the heel pattern. The heel pattern shall be the same for each dog and handler.

The judge or the ring steward will give instructions to the Honor dog team.

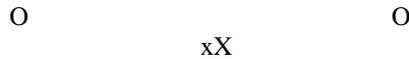
1. On leash heeling, L pattern 70 pt

The judge will say, "This is the heel on lead. Do you have any questions?" The judge will be watching for the dog and handler to walk smoothly as a team with the dog walking on a loose lead. The principle parts of the pattern are: Forward, Halt, Left Turn, Right Turn, About Turn, Slow/Normal, and Fast/Normal. The

handler may cue the dog verbally and/or with a hand signal for any of these parts. Cues must be given simultaneously. The judge's commands will be given for an L walking pattern to include one of each directive commands and two Halts. One of the halts is given at the end of the pattern. The dog will sit at the Halts. The Normal pace must follow the Slow or Fast cue before any turns or halts are made. After the second halt the judge will say, "Exercise finished."

2. On leash figure 8 30 pt

Two cones from 6" to 2' high will be placed 8 feet apart on the floor. The handler and dog will stand in between and to the side of the 2 cones with the dog sitting in heel position.



The judge will say, "This is the figure 8. You may go in either direction. Are you ready?" "Forward." The judge will be watching again for the dog and handler to walk smoothly as a team. They will walk a figure 8 pattern around both of the cones. The handler should maintain a steady pace on the turns. After the dog and handler have circled each of the cones twice, the judge will say, "Halt. Exercise finished." The dog will sit and may be cued to sit at the halt.

3. Friendly greeting on sit stay 30 pt

This exercise shows that the dog will accept a friendly stranger coming up to the owner and engaging in casual conversation without attempting to jump on the judge or run away. The judge will say, "This is the friendly greeting. Do you have any questions?" "Have your dog sit. Are you ready?" The judge will then approach the handler, shake his right hand and say a few words, then walk away. The dog should stay in the seated position. When the judge has returned to his position, he will say, "Exercise finished."

4. Recall on leash from sit stay (no finish) 50 pt

The handler may choose to remove the leash, use a long line or drop the leash. The judge will show him where to leave the dog and where to go for the recall. The judge will say, "This is the recall. Do you have any questions?" "Sit your dog. Leave your dog." The handler will place the dog on a sit stay in heel position and walk 10 feet forward away from him to the spot the judge has designated. The handler will turn and face the dog. Then the judge will say, "Call your dog." The handler may use the dog's name and a verbal cue for the dog to come. He may also use a hand signal if it is done simultaneously with the voice command. He may not pull the dog to him. He may not lean over or bend down to call the dog to him. The dog must come directly to him and sit in front of him. He may cue the dog to sit. The handler may ask the dog to finish after the judge says, "Exercise finished", but it is not necessary for the completion of the exercise.

5. Honor dog 20 pt

Prior to the start of the Introduction class the judge will designate the location of the honor dog exercise (must be in an area where the dog will not interfere with the walking pattern of the working team.) The dog will sit in heel position in the designated area. The judge or steward will say, "Are you ready? " Down your dog." Judging begins when the judge or steward says, "Down your dog." The handler will command and/or signal the dog to stay. The handler will remain in heel position keeping the leash slack. The dog must remain on the down stay while the working team completes the heeling pattern. The dog will not be released until the judge or steward tells the Honor dog team "Exercise finished."

Judging Guidelines for Introduction Scoring

The MASCA Introduction Obedience Level was conceived as a blend of Novice Obedience and basic companion dog training. It has some elements of the Novice level, some of Rally Obedience and some from the AKC Canine Good Citizen test. It is not judged as rigorously as the Novice class. Heel position may be looser with the dog at the left side of the handler. Do not deduct for lagging or forging unless the dog is substantially out of position. (The handler cannot reach out and touch the dog's head.)

Handlers may talk to their dogs and encourage them in the ring. They may, however, receive 1 point deductions for giving additional commands after the first cue has been given.

Treats may only be given after the judge says, "Exercise finished" and before he announces the next exercise.

A dog who changes position or who moves out of position may be given a new command to place the dog back into position. This would receive a deduction for a new command.

Handlers may NOT use their hands to place the dog into the correct position.

There are no DO OVERS. Once a handler begins an exercise, he may not start over at the beginning of that exercise.

1 point deductions:

- Tight or jerked leash
- Dog touches handler or handler touches dog
- Dog interferes with forward motion of handler
- Additional cues given after the first cue
- Dog substantially out of heel position
- Dog hesitates on recall

3 point deductions:

- Dog knocks over a cone
- Dog changes position (sits, stands, lies down without being cued)
- Treat given other than between exercises
- Dropped treat

5 point deductions:

- Failure to change pace
- Failure to sit

10 point deductions:

- Consistently tight leash
- Dog goes somewhere other than to handler on recall

- NQ
- Dog breaks position on friendly greeting
 - Excessive barking
 - Dog shows shyness or resentment
 - Dog moves away from position where he was placed
 - Dog fouls the ring
 - Dog leaves the ring
 - Dog behaves aggressively
 - Handler disciplines dog in the ring
 - Handler errors
 - Dog failed to perform half or more of the exercise

Novice Level (200 points)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1. On leash heeling | 30 pt |
| 2. On leash figure 8 | 20 pt |
| 3. Stand for exam | 30 pt |
| 4. Heel off leash | 40 pt |
| 5. Recall | 30 pt |
| 6. 1 minute sit stay off lead | 30 pt |
| 7. Honor dog | 20 pt |
| No group stays | |

NOVICE OBEDIENCE EXERCISE DESCRIPTIONS

Novice Level 200 points

The Honor dog and handler will enter the ring and go to the spot designated by the judge.

The working handler will enter the ring with the dog on lead and stand at the beginning of the heeling pattern. If this is the first dog, the judge will have one of the stewards walk the heel pattern. The heel pattern shall be the same for each dog and handler.

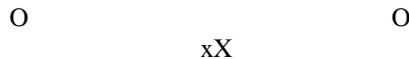
The judge or the ring steward will give instructions to the Honor dog team.

1. On leash heeling, L pattern 30 pt

The judge will say, "This is the heel on lead. Do you have any questions?" The judge will be watching for the dog and handler to walk smoothly as a team. The heeling elements are the same as in the Introduction on leash heeling exercise. The handler may cue the dog verbally and/or with a hand signal on the Forward only. Cues must be given simultaneously. After the second halt the judge will say, "Exercise finished."

2. On leash figure 8 (around people) 20 pt

Two ring stewards will stand where the judge designates 8 feet apart on the floor. They will stand in a relaxed manner with arms folded. The handler and dog will stand in between and to the side of the 2 stewards, with the dog sitting in heel position.



The judge will say, "This is the figure 8. You may go in either direction. Are you ready?" "Forward." The judge will be watching again for the dog and handler to walk smoothly as a team. They will walk a figure 8 pattern around both people. The handler should maintain a steady pace on the turns. The judge will call a halt once in the middle of the pattern and again at the end. The dog will sit at the halts. After the second halt, the judge will say, "Exercise finished."

2. Stand for Exam 30 pt

The judge will say, "This is the stand for examination. Stand your dog and leave when ready." The handler may cue the dog to stand with a verbal and/or hand signal or he may stack the dog as is done in the conformation ring. He will stand in heel position and give a verbal and/or signal to stay. He will walk forward 6 feet, turn and face the dog. The judge will approach the dog at an angle from the front. Using the fingers and palm of one hand, the judge will touch the head, back and hindquarters of the dog. He will say, "Back to your dog." The dog will stay standing in place until the judge says, "Exercise finished."

Note: On all off leash exercises (4, 5, and 6) the handler may gently guide the dog by the collar into position for the next exercise.

4. Off leash Heeling 40 pt

The handler will remove the leash from the dog and hand it to the ring steward. The judge will say, "This is off-leash heeling." or "This is the heel free." The handler will follow the judge's commands and walk the same pattern that he did in on leash heeling. After the second halt, the judge will say, "Exercise finished."

5. Recall 30 pt

The judge will show the handler where to stand for the recall. The judge will say, "This is the recall. Do you have any questions?" "Sit your dog. Leave your dog." The handler will command and/or cue the dog to sit in heel position, then to stay. He will walk to the opposite side of the ring, and turn and face the dog. The judge will say, "Call your dog." The handler may use the dog's name and a verbal cue for the dog to come. It should sound as one command. He may also use a hand signal if it is done simultaneously with the voice command. The dog must come directly to the handler and sit in front of him. The judge will say,

"Finish." The handler may cue the dog to finish either to the left or the right so that he ends up sitting in heel position. After the dog sits the judge will say, "Exercise finished."

6. 1 minute Sit Stay 30 pt

The judge will show the handler where to leave the dog for the Sit Stay. The judge will say, "This is the one minute sit stay. Do you have any questions?"

"Sit your dog." The handler may use a verbal cue and signal for the dog to sit. He may not use his hands to maneuver the dog into a sit. The judge will then say, "Leave your dog." The handler will command and/or signal the dog to stay and then walk across the ring to the opposite side. He will turn and face the dog. Time begins when the handler says, "Stay." The ring steward or judge will keep time and will tell the handler when one minute has elapsed. Then the judge will say, "Return to your dog." The dog must remain sitting in place while the handler walks back to him and into heel position. The judge will then say, "Exercise finished."

7. Honor dog 20 pt

Prior to the start of the Novice class the judge will designate the location of the honor dog exercise (must be in an area where the dog will not interfere with the walking pattern of the working team). The dog will sit in heel position in the designated area. The handler will place the leash behind the dog. The judge or steward will say, "Are you ready? " Down your dog." "Leave your dog." Judging begins when the judge or steward says, "Leave your dog." The handler will command and/or signal the dog to stay, walk to a designated spot in the ring approximately 15 feet from the dog, turn and face the dog. The dog must remain on the down stay while the working team completes the on lead heeling pattern. Before the working team begins the figure 8 pattern, the judge or steward will tell the honor dog handler, "Return to your dog." The handler will walk around the back of the dog and into heel position. Judging ends after the judge has told the working team, "Exercise finished" and turns and tells the honoring team, "Exercise finished."

Judging Guidelines for Novice Scoring

The MASCA Novice Obedience Level was conceived as a class of obedience competition that is comparable to other Novice or Companion Dog levels of competition. Heel position is defined as the dog and handler facing the same direction with the dog on the handler's left side and the area between the dog's nose and shoulder in line with the handler's left hip.

Handlers may talk to their dogs only to give commands and to praise their dogs between exercises.

Treats may only be given after one exercise is completed and before the next one begins.

Handlers may NOT use their hands to place the dog into the correct position.

There are no DO OVERS. Once a handler begins an exercise, he may not start over at the beginning of that exercise.

1 point deduction:

- Tight or jerked leash
- Dog out of heel position
- Dog touches handler or handler touches dog
- Dog interferes with forward motion of handler
- Additional cues given after the first cue

3 point deductions:

- Treat given other than between exercises
- Dropped treats

5 point deductions:

- Failure to change pace or to maintain pace
- Failure to sit

10 point deductions:

- Consistently tight leash

- NQ Dog changes position (sits, stands, lies down without being cued)
- Dog moves away from position where he was placed
- Dog fails to come on first cue
- Dog fouls the ring
- Dog leaves the ring
- Dog behaves aggressively
- Handler disciplines dog in the ring
- Handler errors
- Dog failed to perform half or more of the exercise

Open Level (200 points)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Off leash heeling & figure 8 | 40 pt |
| 2. Drop on recall | 40 pt |
| 3. Retrieve on flat | 30 pt |
| 4. Retrieve over jump | 40 pt |
| 5. Broad jump | 30 pt |
| 6. Honor dog | 20 pt |

OPEN LEVEL OBEDIENCE EXERCISE DESCRIPTIONS

Open Level 200 points

Before entering the ring, the handler will notify the ring steward of the dog's jump height. It is up to the handler to see that the ring stewards have set the high jump and broad jump to the correct height and length before beginning any of the exercises.

The handler will provide the dog's own wooden dumbbell which is appropriate to the size of the dog.

The handler will enter the ring with the dog on lead and will remove the leash from the dog and hand it and the dumbbell to the ring steward or place them on the table. All exercises in the Open class are completed off leash.

NO TREATS are to be taken into or given in the ring.

If this is the first dog, the judge will have one of the stewards walk the heel pattern. The heel pattern shall be the same for each dog and handler.

1. Off leash heeling (or Heel Free) and Figure 8 40 pt

The judge will say, "This is off-leash heeling." or "This is the heel free." "Do you have any questions?"

This exercise is performed as in the off leash heeling exercise at the Novice level. The judge will be watching for the dog and handler to walk smoothly as a team. The handler may cue the dog verbally OR with a hand signal on the Forward only.

Off leash figure 8

This exercise is performed as in the Novice figure 8 except that the dog is off lead. The handler may cue the dog verbally OR with a hand signal on the Forward only.

2. Drop on Recall 40 pt

The judge will show the handler where to leave the dog. The dog will sit in heel position at the handler's left side. The judge will say, "This is the Drop on Recall. Do you have any questions?" "Leave your dog." The handler will give a command and/or hand signal for the dog to stay. The handler will walk away from the dog to the opposite side of the ring, turn and face the dog. The judge will be standing behind the dog. He will signal or ask the handler to "Call your dog." The dog should come quickly toward the handler. The judge will signal with one arm or hand for the handler to cue the dog to drop into the down position. The handler may use a hand signal and/or a verbal command to "drop" the dog. The dog must drop immediately and stay in the down position. The judge will give a signal or verbal command to "Call your dog." The handler will signal or command the dog to come. The dog must come directly to the handler and sit in front of him. At the judge's signal or command to "Finish", the handler will cue or command the dog to finish either to the left or the right so that he ends up sitting in heel position.

3. Retrieve on the Flat 30 pt

The handler will stand in the spot designated by the judge with the dog sitting in heel position. The judge will tell the handler to "Throw it." The handler will command and/or signal the dog to stay and then throw the dumbbell at least 20 feet in front of the dog. The judge will say, "Send your dog." The handler will command and/or signal the dog to take the dumbbell. The dog will go directly to the dumbbell, pick it up, and return directly in front of the handler. He will sit in front of the handler with the dumbbell still in his mouth. The judge will say, "Take it." The handler will take the dumbbell from the dog's mouth. The judge will say, "Finish." The handler will cue or command the dog to finish either to the left or the right so that he ends up sitting in heel position.

4. Retrieve over a Jump 40 pt

The handler will stand with his dog in heel position at least 8 feet from the jump. The judge will say, "Throw it." The handler will command and/or signal the dog to stay and then throw the dumbbell over the jump. The judge will say, "Send your dog." The handler will command and/or signal the dog to take the dumbbell. The dog will jump over the bar jump and go directly to the dumbbell, pick it up, jump back over the bar jump and return directly in front of the handler. He will sit in front of the handler with the dumbbell still in his mouth. The judge will say, "Take it." The handler will take the dumbbell from the dog's mouth. The judge will say, "Finish." The handler will cue or command the dog to finish either to the left or the right so that he ends up sitting in heel position.

5. Broad Jump 30 pt

Before the class begins, the judge will have clearly marked a spot 8 feet from the lowest board of the broad jump. The handler will sit the dog in heel position at least 8 feet from the bottom of the jump. The judge will say, "Leave your dog." The handler will command and/or signal the dog to stay and walk to a spot beside the right side and facing the jump about 2 feet from the jump. The judge will say, "Send your dog." The handler will command the dog to jump. While the dog is clearing the jump, the handler will execute a 90 degree turn in place to the right. After clearing the jump, the dog will turn and come directly to the handler. He will sit in front of the handler. The judge will say, "Finish." The handler will cue or command the dog to finish either to the left or the right so that he ends up sitting in heel position. The ring steward or judge will hand the leash back to the handler.

6. Honor Dog 20 pt.

Prior to the start of the Open class the judge will designate the location of the honor dog exercise (must be in an area where the dog will not interfere with the walking pattern of the working team). The dog will sit in heel position in the designated area. The handler will place the leash behind the dog. The judge will say, "Are you ready?" "Down your dog." Judging begins when the judge says, "Down your dog." The handler will command and/or signal the dog to stay. The handler will walk to the opposite side of the ring, turn and face the dog. The dog must remain on the down stay while the working team completes the heeling pattern and the figure 8. The judge will tell the honor dog handler, "Return to your dog." The handler will walk around the back of the dog and into heel position. Judging ends after the judge has told the working team, "Exercise finished" and turns and tells the honoring team, "Exercise finished."

Judging Guidelines for Open Scoring

The MASCA Open Obedience Level was conceived as a class of obedience competition that is comparable to other Open or Companion Dog Excellent levels of competition. Heel position is defined as the dog and handler facing the same direction with the dog on the handler's left side and the area between the dog's nose and shoulder in line with the handler's left hip.

Handlers may talk to their dogs only to give commands and to praise their dogs between exercises.

Treats may not be given at the Open level and may not be taken into the ring.

At the Open level, the handler may not physically guide the dog between exercises.

1 point deductions:

- Dog out of heel position

- Dog touches handler or handler touches dog

- Dog interferes with forward motion of handler

Slow response
 Mouthing, playing with or dropping the dumbbell
 Refusing to release the dumbbell
 Dog hits the bar of the jump
 Dog hesitates at either jump

3 point deduction

Failure to sit

NQ

Excessive barking
 Dog does not drop completely into down position
 Dog comes before being called
 Dog goes out before being sent
 Dog fails to go after dumbbell on the first command
 Dog goes after dumbbell before the command
 Dog fails to return dumbbell within reach of handler
 Dog refuses to jump over either broad or bar jump
 Dog walks over any of boards in the broad jump
 Dog knocks over the jump
 Dog fouls the ring
 Dog leaves the ring
 Dog behaves aggressively
 Handler disciplines dog in the ring
 Dog failed to perform half or more of the exercise

Utility Level 200 points

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|--|-------|
| 1. Signal exercise | 40 pt |
| 2. Glove retrieve | 40 pt |
| 3. Scent discrimination (handler's choice of metal, wood or leather) | 50 pt |
| 4. Moving Stand and Exam | 30 pt |
| 5. Directed Jumping | 40 pt |
| No Honor dog | |

UTILITY LEVEL OBEDIENCE EXERCISE DESCRIPTIONS

Before entering the ring, the handler will notify the ring steward of the dog's jump height. It is up to the handler to see that the ring stewards have set the bar and high jumps (or bar and panel jumps) to the correct height before beginning any of the exercises.

The handler will provide his own scent articles and three white work gloves appropriate to the size of the dog.

The handler will enter the ring with the dog on lead and will remove the leash from the dog and hand it and the scent articles and gloves to the ring steward or place them on the table. All exercises in the Utility class are completed off leash.

NO TREATS are to be given in the ring.

1. **Signal exercise** 40 pt

There are NO verbal commands given by the handler in this exercises. The handler may cue ONLY with hand and arm signals. The judge will say, "This is the signal exercise. Do you have any questions?" The handler will heel the dog to the place designated by the judge. As they come up to the spot, the judge will say, "Stand Your Dog". The handler will give a hand cue for the dog to stand. The judge will then instruct the handler to "Leave Your Dog". The handler will give the dog a hand cue to stay and will then walk to the opposite side of the ring and turn and face the dog. The judge will use hand signals to tell the handler to give cues for the dog to "Down", "Sit", "Come" and "Finish".

2. **Glove retrieve** 40 pt

The ring steward will place the three gloves on one side of the ring, one in the middle, one in each corner, a few feet from the gate or wall as designated by the judge. The gloves are designated as "one" "two" and "three" from left to right. The handler will stand in the middle of the ring with the dog at heel position facing away from the gloves while they are being placed. When the judge says the glove number, the dog and handler will turn in place to face the designated glove. The dog will sit in heel position. The handler will cue the dog to the direction of the designated glove with a single motion of the left hand and arm along the right side of the dog. The handler must give a verbal retrieve command either with or immediately following the cue. The dog must then go directly to the glove, pick it up, and return directly in front of the handler sitting in front of the handler with the glove in his mouth. The judge will say, "Take it." The handler will take the glove from the dog's mouth. The judge will say, "Finish." The handler will cue or command the dog to finish either to the left or the right so that he ends up sitting in heel position.

3. Scent discrimination 50 pt

The handler will provide a set of 5 identical articles made of either metal, wood, or leather and numbered clearly one through five. The judge will select one of the articles and make note of its number on the score sheet. The judge will hand that article to the handler. The handler and dog will turn away with their backs to the center of the ring. While the steward is placing the articles, the handler will use his hands to place his scent on the remaining article. The steward will handle each of the other articles as he places them in the center of the ring about 6 inches apart in a group. The closest article should be about 20 feet from the handler. On the judges' request, the handler will place the article on the judge's clipboard. The judge or steward will place the article among the others **WITHOUT TOUCHING IT**.

The judge will ask the handler if he wishes to have the dog "Turn and Sit" or "Turn and Send."

On the "Turn and Sit": The judge will say, "Send your dog." The handler may command the dog to heel, turn either right or left in place, and face the articles. The dog will sit in heel position. The handler will give the command or signal to retrieve.

On the "Turn and Send": The judge will say, "Send your dog." The handler turns in place and immediately gives the command or signal to retrieve.

On both: The dog should go directly to the articles and pick up the correct article. The dog may spend any reasonable amount of time sniffing the articles, but must keep working. The dog will return and sit in front of the handler with the article in his mouth. The judge will say, "Take it." The handler will take the article from the dog's mouth. The judge will say, "Finish." The handler will cue or command the dog to finish as in the glove retrieve.

4. Moving Stand and Exam 30 pt

The handler will heel the dog to a spot indicated by the judge. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" "Forward" The dog and handler will walk forward about 10 feet. The judge will say, "Stand your dog" Without pausing, the handler will cue the dog to stand, continue forward 10 to 12 feet, turn and face the dog. The dog must stand in place. The judge will approach the dog from the front and use both hands to touch the body of the dog as in conformation. The judge will not examine the teeth or testicles. The judge will say, "Call your dog to heel." The handler will cue the dog to return directly to heel position.

5. Directed Jumping 40 pt

The two jumps provided may be either one high jump and one bar jump, or one panel jump and one bar jump. The jumps will be placed midway in the ring with edges parallel to each other and about 20 feet apart. The bar jump is designated as "Bar" and the panel or high jump is designated as "High."

First jump: The handler will stand approximately in the center of the ring between the two jumps with the dog at heel position. The judge will say, "Send your dog." The handler will send the dog out toward the end of the ring. The handler will say, "Sit" and the dog will turn and sit facing the jumps. The judge will say either "Bar" or "High" The handler will command and/or signal the dog to jump over that jump. The dog will clear the jump and return to the handler. The judge will say, "Finish." The handler will cue or command the dog to finish as in the glove retrieve. The judge will say, "Exercise finished."

Second jump: The handler and dog will perform the exercise over the second jump just as it was done over the first jump.

Judging Guidelines for Utility Scoring

The MASCA Utility Obedience Level was conceived as a class of obedience competition that is comparable to other Utility levels of competition. It is the highest class of competition exercises. During the Signal exercise, the handler must not talk to the dog. He must use hand and arm signals only. Treats may not be given and may not be taken into the ring. There is no Heeling exercise, but handlers will be expected to heel their dogs into position for the beginning of the exercise and during the exercises. They must not position the dog with their hands.

1 point deductions:

- Dog out of heel position
- Dog touches handler or handler touches dog
- Dog interferes with forward motion of handler
- Slow response
- Mouthing, playing with or dropping the glove or article
- Refusing to release the glove or article
- Dog hits the bar of the jump
- Dog hesitates at either jump

3 point deduction

- Dog anticipates the sit (sits before being cued)
- Additional cues
- Dog sits more than 3 feet off center for directed jumping

NQ

- Excessive barking
- Dog displays fear or aggression
- Dog fails to stand, sit, down, or come
- Handler gives verbal command to stand, sit, down, or come on signal exercise
- Dog moves out of position on stand, sit, or down
- Dog does not drop completely into down position
- Dog comes before being called
- Dog goes out before being sent
- Dog fails to go after glove or article on the first command
- Dog goes after glove or article before the command
- Dog fails to return the correct glove or article
- Dog refuses to jump over either high (panel) or bar jump
- Dog knocks over the jump
- Dog fouls the ring
- Dog leaves the ring
- Dog behaves aggressively
- Handler disciplines dog in the ring

MASCA Acrobatics Rules and Regulations

MASCA Acrobatics is a freeform, choreographed routine scored by judges with an emphasis on tricks, teamwork, success, variety, innovation, entertainment factor and the athletic skills of the dog and handler. Routines should be well planned/practiced, entertaining, and pull from any or all of the following: Dog Tricks, Rally Obedience, Obedience, Obedience Drill Team, Disc Dog Freestyle, and Dog Dancing.

Classes:

- Single: one handler and one dog
- Group: two or more dogs each with a handler
 - multiple dogs with one handler
 - multiple dogs with multiple handlers

Levels:

- Novice: 1 minute, on leash (unlimited treats allowed)

Open: 2 minutes, off leash (up to 10 treats allowed)
Advanced: 3 minutes, off leash (up to 5 treats allowed)

Timing begins after the music starts and motion of handler or dog begins.
Countdown of time remaining will be uniform for all competitors: 60 seconds (Open and Advanced), 30 seconds, 10 seconds and time.

Contestants who bring their own music should present it to DJ prior to the start of the contest. Music should be on a CD marked with the competitor's name and desired track number. Contestants must choose music that is suitable for a family audience.

Costumes and props are encouraged, but toys such as balls/canine discs are not allowed.

Acrobatics Scoring System:

Competing teams will receive scores ranging from 1-5, in half-point increments, for each of the following eight categories:

Teamwork: The team should work together, and show co-ordination, co-operation and synchronization.

Routine: The presentation should be an entertaining and crowd-pleasing routine with choreography, continuous flow, and smooth transitions.

Athleticism: Intensity and athleticism of tricks or maneuvers together with a dog's speed, quickness, leaping ability and co-ordination.

Wow! Factor: The ability to successfully complete challenging tricks or moves.

Execution: The team's ability to successfully execute a precise routine.

Stage Use: Efficiently use entire stage and work the crowd

Entertainment Value: Enjoyment of judges and spectators

Attitude/Enthusiasm: Dog and handler should enjoy the routine and have a tight bond

*** The presentation of completely new moves should result in higher scores.

*** More difficult routines that are successful should score higher than less difficult, successful routines.

Tie-breaker: If there is a tie for placements, the tie will be broken by the following criteria:

- 1) The team with the highest **Wow!** score.
- 2) Team with the highest **Accuracy** score.

Titles: AS-N (Acrobatic Single Novice) - 3 Qualifying scores of 24+
AS-O (Acrobatic Single Open) - 3 Qualifying scores of 28+
AS-A (Acrobatic Single Advanced) - 3 Qualifying scores of 30+
AG-N (Acrobatic Group Novice) - 3 Qualifying scores of 24+
AG-O (Acrobatic Group Open) - 3 Qualifying scores of 28+
AG-A (Acrobatic Group Advanced) - 3 Qualifying scores of 30+

***Qualifying scores must be from at least 2 different judges.

Ring Size: No smaller than 30' x 40'.

Judge: any judge used for obedience, rally obedience, plus experienced disc dog freestyle judge or dog dancing judge may be used. 1-4 judges may be used.

Judges Notes: Each category is scored from 0-5 points.

Scale: 5 points - professional performer
4 points - semi professional performer
3 points - Solid performance - the team has trained hard to practice for their routine.
2 points - Good, but needs more polishing

1 point - Needs more work

Please give consideration to whether the dog should earn a leg or not for their level when scoring. For example, to qualify in Novice you would need an average of 3 points or higher for the categories, a "Solid Performance".

Video Competitions: Video Competitions may be hosted by MASCA members. Contestants should be given 3 months notice to submit their entries. Video must be un-edited and have a view of the entire 30' x 40' or larger ring (no zooming). The field should be measured and marked with a visible object on each corner. Judging for contest will be complete within 30 days of due date. Competitors will be notified via e-mail of score/placement/qualification.

Disclaimer: Please note that MASCA Acrobatics is a new type of event. Changes/improvements to the program in the future are anticipated. Also, Judges scores are subjective by nature of the event, and final once placements are made



Miniature Australian Shepherd Club of America Application for Tracking Number

If your dog is already registered or has applied for a registration with MASCA, you do not need to fill out this form. If, however, your dog is NOT registered with MASCA, you will need to apply for a tracking number so that your obedience qualifying scores, placements and titles are recorded with MASCA.

There is a one time fee of \$5 to apply for a tracking number with MASCA. You will need to complete one form and remit \$5 for each dog you are registering. Send your application fee and this form to the address at the bottom of the form. If you are pre registering for an obedience trial, your tracking number application and a separate check for the fee may be included with your obedience trial application and sent to the trial secretary.

Registration conformation will be emailed to you. Please allow 2 to 4 weeks for processing.

Please print clearly.

Dog's registered name _____

Breed _____ Variety _____

Sex _____ Date of birth _____ Country _____

Owner _____

Co-owner _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Signature _____

Mail to : to be inserted once an obedience coordinator is named