

Pre Open

AKC's Graduate Novice is the basis for these exercises. However, they have been modified for the Wisconsin 4-H program. If you choose to compete in AKC, please be aware that there are differences in the requirements of some of the exercises between the two programs.

<u>Pre-Open</u>	<u>Maximum Score</u>
1. Heel Free and Figure 8 (Off Leash)	40 points
2. Drop On Recall	40 points
3. Retrieve on the Flat	30 points
4. Recall over Broad jump	30 points
5. Long Sit (3 minutes)	30 points
6. Long Down (5 minutes)	30 points

Heel on Leash and Figure Eight

The exercise and scoring will be executed in the same manner as the Novice Heel off Leash and Figure Eight.

Drop On Recall

The principal features of this exercise are the dog's prompt response to the handler's command and/or signal to drop and the dog's remaining in the down position until again called or signaled to come. The dog will be judged on the promptness of its response to the command or signal.

The orders are: "leave your dog," "call your dog," then give a clear signal to drop the dog, followed by "call your dog" and "Finish." The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order the handler may give a command and/or signal for the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will walk forward to the other end of the ring, then turn, face the dog, and stand naturally. On the judge's order or signal, the handler will either command and/or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly at a brisk trot or gallop. On the judge's voice or hand signal, the handler shall give the command and/or signal to drop, and the dog must drop immediately to a complete down position. The dog must remain down until the handler gives the command or signal to come when ordered by the judge. Signal must be an acceptable obedience signal so hand remain at naturally at their side after the signal is given (as in the Utility exercise). The dog completes the exercise as in the novice recall.

Retrieve on the Flat

The orders are: "throw it," "send your dog," "take it," and "Finish." The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order.

On the judge's order "throw it," the handler may give the command and/or signal to stay. If the handler does use

a signal, that signal may not be given with the hand that is holding the dumbbell. After the dumbbell is thrown at least 20 feet, the judge will order the handler to “send your dog.” The retrieve should be performed at a brisk trot or gallop. The dog will go directly to the dumbbell and retrieve it, returning directly to the handler as in the novice recall without unnecessary mouthing or playing. On the judge’s order to “take it,” the handler will give take the dumbbell. The finish will be performed as in the novice recall.

The dumbbell, which must be approved by the judge, will be made of one or more solid pieces of wood or non-wooden material similar in size, shape and weight to a wooden dumbbell. Metal dumbbells are not permitted. Dumbbells will not be hollowed out. They may be unfinished, coated with a clear finish or may be any color. They may not have decorations or attachments but may bear an inconspicuous mark for identification. The size of the dumbbell will be proportionate to the size of the dog. The judge will require the dumbbell to be thrown again before the dog is sent if it is thrown less than 20 feet, too far to one side or too close to the ring’s edge.

Recall over the Broad Jump

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet from the jump, facing the lowest hurdle (lowest end of the jump). When the judge orders, “Leave your dog,” the handler will give the command and/or signal to stay; and go at least 8 feet beyond the last hurdle, and turn and face the dog as in the Novice Recall. On the judge’s order, the handler will give the command or signal to jump. The dog must clear the entire distance of the broad jump without touching it and without further command, immediately sit in front of the handler and finish as in the Novice recall. The distance of the jump will be the same as in the Open Classes.

Long Sit & Long Down

These exercises are performed and scored in the same manner as in the novice classes, except the leash will be removed and placed behind the dog with the armband weighted as necessary; and the handlers must to the opposite side of the ring then leave in a single file and go completely out of the dogs’ sight.

The orders are: “sit your dogs” or “Down your dogs,” “leave your dogs,” “back to your dogs,” and “exercise finished.” Counting from the judge’s order to “leave your dogs,” the handlers must remain in the place designated by the judge until three minutes have passed for the long sit and five minutes for the long Down. On the judge’s orders, the handlers will return to the ring in reverse order, line up to face their dogs at the opposite side of the ring, and return to their dogs. During these exercises the judge will stand so that all the dogs are clearly visible and without having to turn around, judges should be able to see all the handlers as they leave and return to the ring. If a dog leaves the place where it was left during the group exercise, the judge has the option of either asking that the handler be recalled to remove the dog or promptly instructing a steward to remove the dog, depending on the nature of the occurrence. The judge’s decision will be guided by consideration for the safety of all involved. Any dog that leaves the place where it was left during the first group exercise must be released from the remaining group exercise.