



# NACL Obedience Rules

## Adjustments to the EALC included

**Level I** – Dog is on a leash

**Level II** - Dog not on a leash

### Equipment

- ❖ 6 foot fabric or leather lead (leash)
- ❖ Properly fitted slip collar: slip collar being single length with two rings, one at each end.
  - Nothing shall be hanging from collar.
  - No German (pinch type) collars are allowed.

### Eligibility

- ❖ Only NALC Registered Catahoulas may enter.
- ❖ Spayed or neutered Catahoulas may enter and earn points toward championship & Nationals
- ❖ “In heat” females may be shown. They must wear a well fitted dog diaper. For “in heat” results; NALC has the right to test any female that is entered in an NALC event or sanctioned NALC event.
- ❖ A person shall not be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs while participating in an NALC event or a NALC sanctioned event. This may cause a person to forfeit that day’s entries.

### Line Up

You will be called for pre-line up. When you hear your name, go to the ring area and check in with the ring steward. It is important that the ring steward checks your arm band number and knows you are there, ready to follow instructions. Please stay in the area until it is your turn to enter the ring.

- ❖ The NALC Obedience Trials **will start** with the Long Sit & Long Down exercise. Be Ready. You must be on time.

**The Judge must disqualify if:**

- Dog attempts to bite/attack any person and/or other dogs in the ring
- Dog leaves ring during class and hasn't returned to handler after three times call back
- Dog showing injury or illness

**The Judge may deduct points for:**

- Improper equipment
- Dog showing aggression or unmanageable behavior
- Handler over-correcting, training or disciplining his/her dog in the ring

This is an EALC modification. It does not fully comply with the NALC rules.

**Scores**

- Each exercise has a score for that category between 0 and 10 points
- There is no disqualification for insufficient performance of an exercise; 0 points are given
- Points are summed up to a total score in the end
- There is no minimum score in the categories or total to qualify for the rating.

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**GROUP EXERCISES**

**Long Sit**

- 1 minute -

The Judge's Orders:

Are you ready? Sit your dog. Leave your dog. Return to your dog, Exercise Finished.

Instructions:

The number of dogs in this exercise may be varied so that dogs from both levels may compete together or owners with more than one dog may be split between groups. The dogs will begin in a line on the side of the ring with enough space between them that one dog will not interfere with another. The judge will ask the handlers "Are you ready?" The judge will give the order to "sit". The judge will give the order "Leave your dog". The handlers will give the command and/or signal to "stay" and walk out the appropriate distance. The handler will turn and face the dog. The handler will make no conversation or unnecessary movements. No other command or signal will be given to the dog. After one minute the judge will give the order "Return to your dog". Each handler will approach his/her dog from the dog's left side, circle behind the dog and stand quietly at the heel position. The dog should remain sitting until the judge gives the "Exercise Finished" order.

If at any time a dog breaks, the handler should return and stand quietly next to the dog until the exercise is completed.

### **Long Down**

-3 minutes-

The Judge`s Orders:

Are you ready? Down your dog. Leave your dog. Return to your dog, Exercise Finished.

Instructions:

The number of dogs in this exercise may be varied so that dogs from both levels may compete together or owners with more than one dog may be split between groups. The dogs will begin in a line on the side of the ring, in the "sit" at heel position, with enough space between them that one dog will not interfere with another. The judge will ask the handlers "Are you ready?" The judge will give the order to "Down your dogs". The handlers will give the command and/or signal to "down". The handler should not struggle with the dog or force it into position. If the dog requires strong physical treatment or more than two attempts to down, it shall be disqualified. When all dogs are down, the judge will order "Leave your dog".

The handlers will give the command and/or signal to "stay". The handlers will leave and conduct themselves in the same manner as they did in the long sit. After three minutes the judge will order "Return to your dogs". The handler will return in the same manner as they did in the long sit. When they have all returned to the heel position, the judge will order "Exercise Finished". The dog should remain in the down position until the final order is given.

If at any time a dog breaks, the handler should return and stand quietly next to the dog until the exercise is completed.

**Note:** If a dog is disqualified in either the Long Sit or the Long Down, it will be at the discretion of the judge and/or if time allows - *after the trial is over* - that an entry may complete the other exercises as a "practice only trial" (no points received).

### **HEELING**

The Judge`s Orders:

Are you ready? Forward, Halt, Left Turn, Right Turn, About Turn, Slow, Fast, Normal, Exercise Finished

These orders may be given in any sequence, but should be in the same order for every exhibitor if possible.

Instructions:

The judge will ask the competitor if there are any questions. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" The dog will begin in the "sit" position at the handler`s left side. The leash will be loose enough to form a "J" shape between the collar and the hand. When the handler indicates he/she is ready,

the judge will order "Forward". The handler may give a command or signal to begin movement if he/she desires, but may not do both. The dog's name may be used with the command. The handler may not touch the dog or give voice other than the command. The handler will move forward at a steady, normal pace. Each time the "Halt" command is given, the handler will stop within three steps, and the dog will automatically stop and sit promptly in the correct heel position. The "sit" will be without any command or signal from the handler. When the judge calls "About Turn", the handler will turn to the right so that the dog goes the greater distance on the turn. The "Fast" order means the handler approximately doubles his/her normal pace by approximately one-half from the "Normal". The dog must show a change of pace, not just the handler. The "fast" and "slow" commands must be given from a "normal" speed.

## **FIGURE EIGHT**

The Judge's Orders:

Are you ready? Forward, Halt, Exercise Finished.

Instructions:

Two stewards or two props will stand or be placed approximately eight feet apart, facing each other. The judge will stand facing the handler and dog. The dog will be sitting in the heel position. The judge will ask the handler if he/she is ready. When the handler is ready, the judge will give the "Forward" command. The handler may begin in either direction. The dog should adjust its pace to remain in the heel position. There will be at least two halts called, one after a complete figure eight is completed, and one to end the exercise. At least two patterns around each steward or prop must be completed.

## **STAND FOR EXAMINATION**

The Judge's Orders:

Are you ready? Stand your dog, Leave your dog, Return to your dog, Exercise Finished.

Instructions:

The exercise begins in a place designated by the judge with the dog sitting in the heel position. After the handler indicates that he/she is ready, the judge will order "Stand your dog". The handler will stand the dog. The handler may physically set up the dog. On instruction of the Judge the command and/or signal to 'stay' is given to the dog without touching the dog. The handler then positions himself in front of the dog facing the dog. The judge approaches the dog from the front, touches the dog's head, back, and hindquarters lightly, once each, and moves away. The judge give the order "Return to your dog". The handler walks back to the dog, approaching from the dog's left, and circles behind the dog to return to the heel position. The handler remains in the heel position and the dog remains standing until the judge calls "Exercise Finished".

This includes an EALC modification. It does not fully comply with the NALC rules.

## **RECALL**

The Judge`s Orders:

Are you ready? Leave your dog, Call your dog, Finish, Exercise Finished.

Instructions:

The exercise will begin with the dog sitting in the heel position. After indicating that he/she is ready, the judge will give the order to leave the dog. The handler will give the command and/or signal for the dog to “stay”. The handler then walks away from the dog, turns to face the dog and waits with his/her arms at his/her side. The judge orders “Call your dog”. The handler gives the command and/or signal to “come”. The dog must come directly and sit straight in front, close enough for the handler to touch the dog. The judge then gives the order to “Finish”. The handler will give the command and/or signal to the dog to return to the heel position and sit.

If your dog has been trained to “Finish” in a different manner, it must be noted on your Obedience Trial entry form. It will be at the judge`s discretion to score accordingly.

**Please Note:** If there is a distraction - of any kind - at any time - during the Obedience Trial **EVENT**, it will be at the judge`s discretion whether or not to take points off from a dog`s reaction. The exercise should not be repeated.

## **NALC LEVEL II - All work done off lead**

\*You cannot return to Level I after advancing to Level II in Obedience

Level II shall be executed and scored the same as Level I with the exception that all work shall be done off lead (leash). A 6 meters distance from the dog will be used for recall, long sit and down. Handler may guide or lead dog between exercises without penalty.