

## General Obedience Regulations

MBDCA encourages pet owners to obedience train their dogs. Dogs which are shown under approved judges at matches and specialties in the obedience classes may earn the following degrees:

- Mixed Breed Companion Dog (MB-CD)
- Mixed Breed Companion Dog Excellent (MB-CDX)
- Mixed Breed Utility Dog (MB-UD)
- Mixed Breed Utility Dog Excellent (MB-UDX)
- Mixed Breed Obedience Trial Champion (MB-OTCh)

Canadian club members showing under Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) style rules may earn the following degrees:

- Mixed Breed Canadian Companion Dog (MB-CCD)
- Mixed Breed Canadian Companion Dog Excellent (MB-CCDX)
- Mixed Breed Canadian Utility Dog (MB-CUD)
- Mixed Breed Canadian Utility Dog Excellent (MB-CUDX)

MBDCA registered handicapped dogs, whether mixed bred or pure bred, may earn the following degrees:

- Mixed Breed Companion Dog (MB-CD)
  - Mixed Breed Special Companion Dog Excellent (MB-SCDX)
  - Mixed Breed Special Utility Dog (MB-SUD)
  - Mixed Breed Special Utility Dog Excellent (MB-SUDX)
  - Mixed Breed Special Obedience Trial Champion (MB-SOTCh)
- Canadian members may earn the Special version of the Canadian titles as well.

1. A minimum passing score in all regular obedience classes is 170 points and more than 1/2 of the points for each exercise. No deductions of less than 1/2 point may be made.
2. The obedience judge's application may be acquired from the MBDCA Membership Secretary or the MBDCA website, <http://www.mbdca.org>. MBDCA shall have sole jurisdiction over the decision to approve obedience judges.
3. Only judges on the MBDCA Approved Judges' List are approved to award legs towards obedience titles.
4. No judge may require any handler or dog to be judged on any exercise or variation of an exercise which is not in these regulations.
5. Rings should be 40'x50' though an indoor ring in Novice or Open may be as

small as 30'x40'. The floor should be covered, if needed, to provide firm footing for moving or jumping. The judge will decide if the floor requires mats. The judge's table and chairs may not interfere with the dog and handler's performance in the ring.

6. No ring is to be used for regular obedience class after being used for any other purpose, including practice or conformation judging.
7. The regular obedience classes are Novice, Open, and Utility.
8. Unless prohibited by the sponsoring club, a dog may enter both A and B classes at any level if he is entered for a leg in these classes. Nonetheless, either A or B must be on an "Exhibition Only" basis, although both qualifying scores will count if under different, approved judges.
9. Not more than 2 legs toward a title can be earned for any one dog at a single show or Fun Match.
10. In the B section of each class, or in a combined class, a handler may have more than one dog entered but must have a separate handler for each dog for the Long Sit and Long Down if in the same group.
11. A dog may continue to be shown in a class for 60 days after the handler has been notified by two different judges that the dog has received three qualifying scores toward that title.
12. A dog that has completed its third leg for a title may move up at the next show/match. A move up request must be made in writing at least 15 minutes before the beginning of the next trial if there are multiple trials offered on the same day. Official notification of a degree does not have to be received before the dog may be shown at the next level; however, if the lower title is not validly earned, then any legs for the next title will be forfeited.
13. Dogs which have had their appearance changed by artificial means are allowed to compete under these rules; nevertheless, MBDCa does not wish to encourage or condone submitting a dog to needless surgery.
14. Dogs which are handicapped are allowed to compete; nonetheless a judge may, at his discretion, excuse a dog that he believes may cause injury to itself or others or is in obvious pain or discomfort.
15. Handicapped handlers may compete. Judges must make reasonable accommodations for these handlers, but no exceptions may be made in the standard of judging or in the requirements of the exercises. A second person may be allowed to push the handler's wheelchair or give interpretations to a deaf handler, if needed.
16. No dog may ever be physically handled in the ring, except: 1) Novice dogs may be guided by the collar between exercises and 2) as allowed in the Novice Stand For Exam. Handlers are encouraged to praise their dogs between

exercises.

17. No dog which relieves itself in an obedience ring shall receive a qualifying score. A dog shall not receive a qualifying score if the handler carries or offers food or abuses his dog in the ring.
18. All dogs in a class must compete in all exercises of that class including group exercises, regardless of their scores in the individual exercises unless the dog has been excused or disqualified by the judge.
19. If a tie occurs for any prize, the dogs and handlers will be required to perform the Heel Off Lead exercise. The Show Committee shall select a judge from among those at the show to preside if the runoff occurs between two classes.
20. Any dog which scores a 195 or higher three consecutive times with no failures, while earning any degree, will be awarded a special "Obedience Achievement Certificate". Any dog earning this certificate will be designated "OAC" after the degree for which it was earned.
21. Any dog which scores a 190 to 194 1/2 three consecutive times with no failures, while earning any degree, will be awarded a "Special Obedience Certificate". Any dog earning this certificate will be designated "SOC" after the degree for which it was earned.
22. In order to earn an MB title the exhibitor should follow these steps:
  1. Check the upcoming matches for a judge listed on the Approved Judges List. You may qualify for a leg at any match which has an approved judge for your class and which allows mixed breeds to enter.
  2. On the day of the match, give the judge the Judge's Certification Form. You should fill in everything of the form except the score and the judge's signature. You must give this form to the judge before he/she gives you the first command or the score will be invalid. After your test, the judge will then sign and date the form.
  3. Mail the Judge's Certification Form to the Obedience Legs Chairperson at the address on the bottom of the form. The Judge's Certification Form must be postmarked within 30 days from the date of the match.
23. A member may not attempt 2 legs on the same dog under the same judge at the same trial.
24. The purpose of obedience training is to develop smooth, strong, and happy teamwork between dog and human. The purpose of obedience competition is to judge that teamwork. Therefore, no corrections may be made in the ring when trying for a leg. If the handler corrects the dog in the ring, the handler must not receive a qualifying score and may be excused at the discretion of the judge. The judge must note on the score sheet why the deductions were made. Praise and encouragement may not be given during any exercise and

are cause for a non-qualifying score. However, praise and encouragement between exercises is not only acceptable but encouraged.

25. Acceptable collars. A buckle, snap, or slip collar (choke) is required in the ring. Limited slip or martingale collars are also acceptable. No tags or ornaments shall be hanging from the collar. No pinch (prong) collars or shock collars are allowed in the rings or on the show grounds.
26. Commands and signals. In the following regulations, the term “command and/or signal” means that the handler may give a verbal command, a hand signal, or both simultaneously. The term “command or signal” means that the handler may give a verbal command or a hand signal, but not both. When using a signal only, the handler may not use the name of the dog before giving the signal. A signal is defined as a single, continuous movement of the hand and arm only. Additional body motion (including leaning and moving the head) may be construed by the judge as additional aids to the dog and may be scored per the judge’s discretion. The handler may use the dog’s name before a verbal command; however, if the dog responds on his name instead of on the handler’s command, the dog will be considered to have anticipated the command and must receive a non-qualifying score for that exercise.
27. Scoring. A minor deduction is 1/2 to 3 points. A substantial deduction is 3 1/2 points or more, up to the full value of the exercise. The smallest deduction possible is 1/2 point.