

Summing up the changes in the FCI obedience rules and guidelines

Effective 1.1.2022

- The first change is that we use the word **grade** instead of points. This describes better, what the judges are giving, they are grading the performance. The grades are 0 and from 5 - 5½ - 6 to 10. See 14.1 on page 16.

Commands /Second command /Extra commands

- In class 1 we decided to take drop the grade by 1 for a second command. And in most cases, this has been followed.
We have two clear exceptions.
 - A second recall is always and in all classes -2. Recall is one of the most important commands and should be obeyed in all situations at once.
 - In distance control the first extra command on a position is – 2, also in class one. This makes the judging of the exercises more consistent, and other changes in the guidelines for judging class 1 distance control have been made in the direction of more leniency.
 - These both are also in line with the policy that we drop the grade for mistakes on an equal basis throughout the classes and exercises. Exercises get more difficult but the dropping for a certain mistake is the same. It has always been an effort to follow this practice. See page 26, Introduction to basic principles for judging.
- All commands must be voice commands and distinct. In some exercises a hand signal is allowed accompanying the voice command when the dog is at a distance.
- Wearing a collar and having a leash has been more clearly specified. A collar against ticks and insects is allowed. See 16.1 (12-13), page 21.
- A hand touch is allowed before the start of an exercise.
- The max heights of the hurdles have been lowered.
- Skipping an exercise is allowed.
- The text for heelwork has been clarified. It is clearly specified that there must be a small but distinct distance between handler and dog. See 16.1.28
- Obeying commands /distances for reaction has been specified /breed and structure should be taken account of.
- Basic principles of judging are written down. See page 26, 16.2. This is written according to how it has been. We drop for the mistake or having to give an extra command, but not both.
- Dog's independent action, the grade is dropped by 3.
- In group exercises, we do not disqualify the handler & dog, if the dog goes outside the ring directly to the handler.

- General impression, the grade is specified when several judges have graded the general impression.
- **Running round the cones.** There is an attempt to make this exercise less straining on the body for the dog. And thus, the one cone was replaced with a group of cones (or a barrel) to get a wider curve. The distance from the cones is also determined so that we have a wider curve: middle sized breeds up to some half a meter and bigger breeds even one meter. Please note that these measures are approximations.

The distances in these exercises (running round the cones) are built up from class 1, where the distance is 10 meters, to class 2, where the distance is 15 meters and class 3 where the distance is 20 meters. The shorter distance in class 2 is due to the effort not to provoke so much speed when running for the hurdle. The stop in exercises 2.9 and 3.8. is 2 meters in both.

General rules and guidelines

- Class 1: A second command is only -1 in all exercises, if not otherwise stated in the exercise. Some exceptions f.ex. all extra recalls are -2, and in distance control, the first extra command on a position. In most cases and classes, the drops for mistakes are the same.
- Class 1 & 2: It is recommended that the dog wears a collar during the exercises.
- In all classes: it is obligatory in all group exercises to wear a collar.
- Collars against ticks and insects are allowed in addition to normal collars.
- It is a national decision
 - when a dog may move up to the next class; at least 1x excellent should be required
 - when a dog must move up to the next class
 - when a dog may stay in a class or perhaps move downward; f. ex. veterans of 8 y & 10 y.
- No metal dumbbell anymore, the jump & metal retrieve exercise in class 2 is replaced with an exercise preparing for class 3: Run around a cone, stop and jump (exercise 2.9).
- In all classes, (Run around a cone...), the one cone is replaced with a group of cones (3-6), height 40-50 cm and diameter 70-80 cm or a corresponding barrel. The dog's distance from cones should be clear, not too tight turns. The cause for these changes was to decrease the strain on the dog's legs and body.
- In all exercises the handler must give a vocal command. A mere hand signal is always a mistake. The judge must hear the command. In some exercises a hand signal is allowed in addition to a vocal command, but they must be simultaneous. If a hand signal is allowed, this will be mentioned in the exercise. The hand signal may not outlast the vocal command.
- In directing exercises, in which it is stated that touching the dog (and showing directions at the starting point), fails the exercise, one "hand touch" (the palm) is however allowed. It must be the dog touching the handler and not the handler touching the dog. It may not give the impression of showing directions.
- A more detailed description on performance and judging of heelwork is included.
- Some small changes (mostly in a more lenient direction) and clarifications have been made in the judging criteria. Also an effort towards consistency

Class 1

- Class 1 is a bit shorter as some exercises have been deleted/combined. The judging is slightly more lenient.

- EX 1.1 Sitting in a group for one minute, the handlers in sight.
The handler walks to the distance of 15 metres from the dog. In the old rules it is 25 metres.
- EX 1.2 Heelwork
Coefficient changes to 4 (from 3).
- EX 1.3 Positions (stand / sit / down) under march. Only one exercise now instead of two. New exercise that replaces exercises 1.3 and 1.5 The judge decides the position for the day. It can also be drawn before the competition/ class starts.

A second command on a position (stand/sit/down) fails the exercise. If the position is wrong, but the stop and all other elements are perfect, 6 can be awarded, but no more.

Also, if the dog changes a correct position before the handler has turned around, but all other elements of the exercise are perfect, 6 can be awarded.

Body language drops 1-5 grades (earlier 3-5), depending on strength and duration.
- Ex 1.4 Recall
Coefficient changes to 4 (from 3). Extra recall is -2.
- ~~EX 1.5~~ Deleted and replaced by including stand or sit or down (one position) under march in exercise 1.3
- ~~EX 1.6~~ Send away into a square and lying down
-> 1.5 The second command drops 1 point (only in class 1). Earlier it has been 2 grades. The exercise is failed if the stop or down command is given a third time.
- ~~EX 1.8~~ Distance control
-> 1.6 Coefficient changes to 4 (from 3)
If the dog misses two positions out of four, no more than 5 can be awarded. The exercise has before failed if the dog misses two positions of the four.
- EX 1.7 New exercise in class 1. The retrieve exercise is changed to jump & retrieve. Like it has been in ex. 2.9, but the metal dumbbell is changed to be a wooden dumbbell and the handler may use his/her own dumbbell. The judging is also more lenient than earlier.
- EX 1.8 Run round a group of cones / a barrel
Coefficient 4 (from 3). The one cone is replaced with a group of cones (3-6), height 40-50 cm and diameter 70-80 cm or a corresponding barrel.
- EX 1.9 No changes, just a clarification

Class 2

- EX 2.1 Lying in a group for 2 minutes, handlers out of sight
Coefficient 3 (from 2)
- EX 2.2 Heelwork, appx. 1,5-2 minutes
Coefficient 4 (from 3)
- EX 2.3 No changes.
- EX 2.4 Recall with stop
Coefficient 4 (from 3)
All commands must be vocal commands. A hand signal in addition to the vocal command on the stop is allowed. Earlier it has been a vocal command or hand signal on stop, not both.
- EX 2.5 No changes
- EX 2.6 No changes
- EX 2.7 Scent discrimination
Coeff 3 (from 4)
- EX 2.8 No changes
- EX 2.9 Deleted exercise "Jump and retrieve metal dumbbell".
Replaced by a new exercise, preparing for class 3.
Send round a group of cones/barrel, stop and jump. Coeff. 4.
The distance from dog to cones is 15 m
- EX 2.10 No changes, just a clarification

Class 3

- EX 3.1 No changes
- EX 3.2 No changes
- EX 3.3 Heelwork
Coefficient 4 (from 3)
No changes in the heelwork but a more detailed description on performance and judging. Also, ex 3.3 and 3.4 are combined
- EX 3.4 Stand – sit – down is combined with ex 3.3 but are judged separately.
Exercise 3.4 also includes a recall. Some changes in judging criteria.
- EX 3.5 Recall.
New position, sit. Two positions out of three (stand-sit-down) are chosen. The judge decides the positions and their order for the competition. Voice commands are obligatory. Hand signals are allowed in addition on the stops.

EX 3.6 Send away with directions, down and recall

No essential changes in performance. Changes in directions for judging towards more leniency.

EX 3.7 Directed retrieve

No circle, no cone. An imaginary line between two markers or cones (clearly visible to handler) 10 metres from starting point (and from middle dumbbell). The dog is stopped after 10 meters. During the stop the handler is told which dumbbell should be retrieved. Also, it is possible that the middle-one has to be retrieved. Earlier only left or right.

EX 3.8 Send round a group of cones, stop (stand/sit/down), retrieve and jump

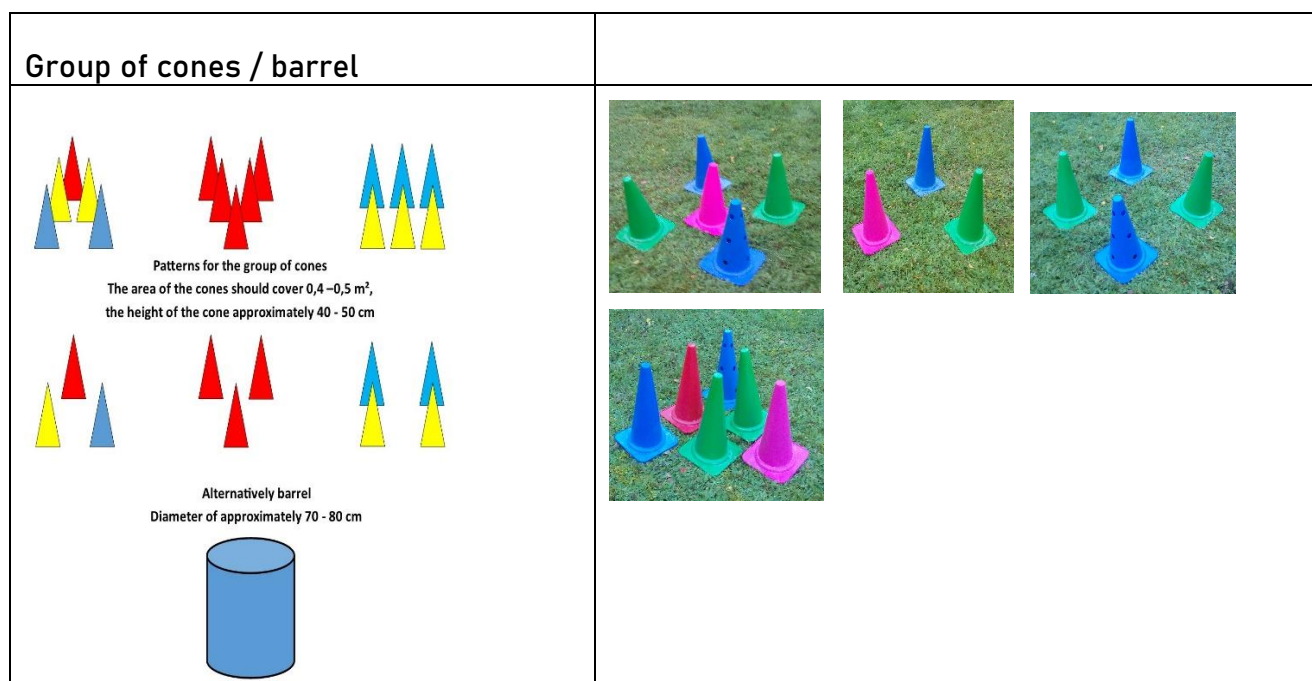
The one cone is replaced with a group of cones (3-6), height 40-50 cm and diameter 70-80 cm or a corresponding barrel.

Starting point 5-7 m from hurdle/jump (handler's choice), dumbbells 6 metres from jumps. Max height for hurdle/jump is 60 cm.

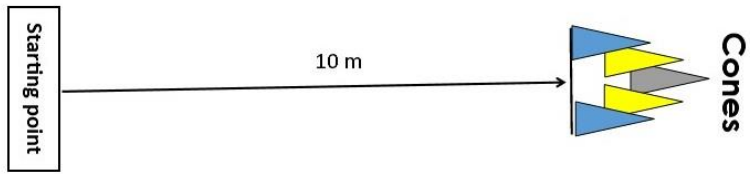
EX 3.9 No changes

EX 3.10 No changes

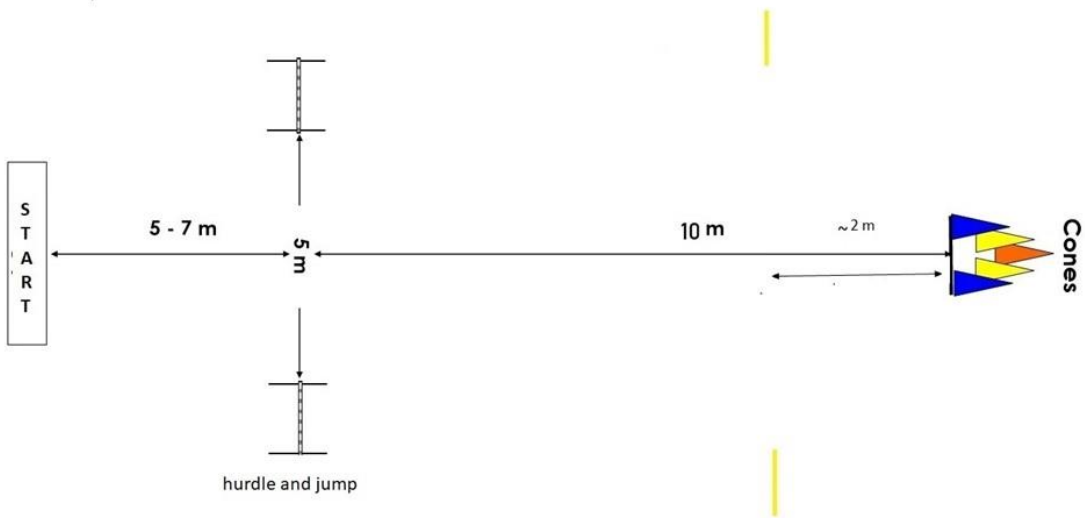
FIGURES



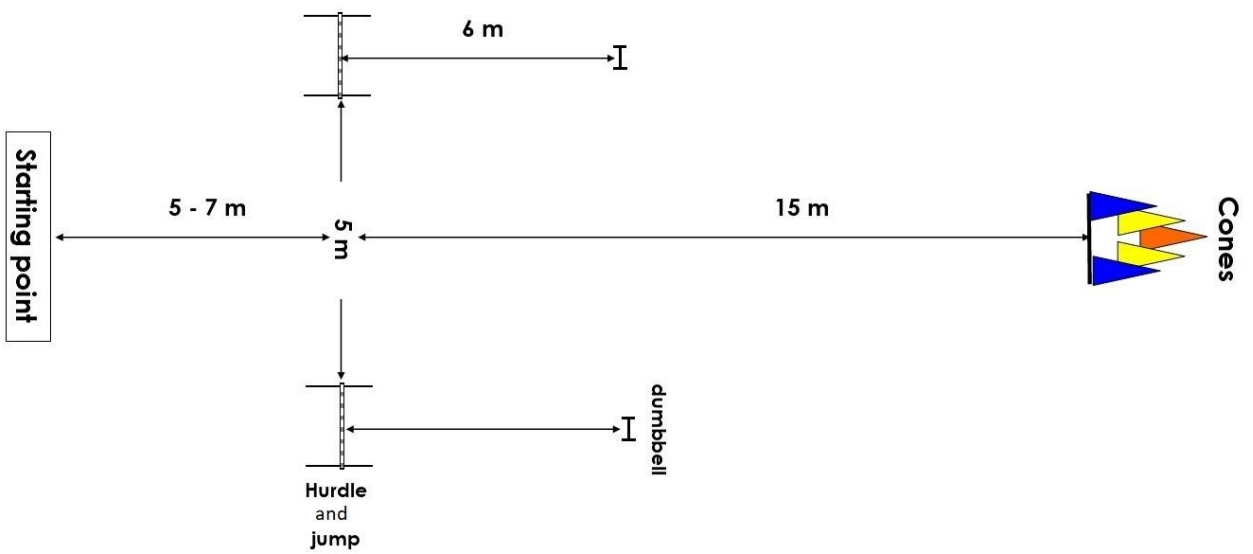
EX 1.8



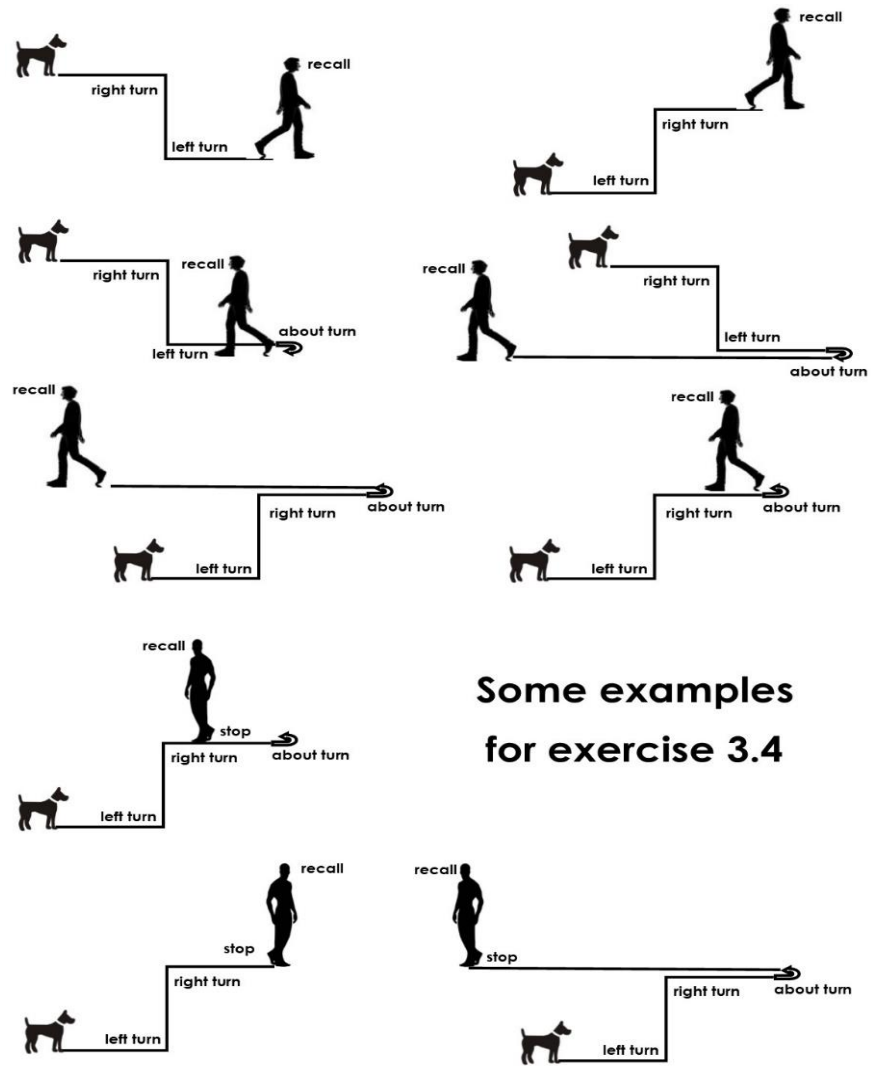
EX 2.9



EX 3.8



EX 3.4



Some examples for exercise 3.4

EX 3.7

