**STARTER CLASS**

**RULES SUBMISSION**

**Consistency in Wording.**

Many tricks, right across the classes, have in Set Up the requirement for the dog to be ‘in a stance of the handler’s choice’ or ‘in a stance of the handler’s choice and close to the handler’. However, the wording used across these many tricks has a large number of variations although the intent is the same. It is proposed that this wording be made the same across all tricks which have this requirement in Set Up.

Wherever possible we suggest that the Set up is ‘In a stance of the handler’s choice.’ And, when appropriate ‘and close to the handler.’

**RATIONALE**

There are, at present, 80 tricks listed. In the description in Set Up there are many slight variations which makes it more difficult for both Handler and Judge to remember. This results in:

1. Handler does the set up stance incorrectly and NQs what is otherwise a beautifully executed trick;
2. Judge misses the incorrect set up stance and qualifies a trick which should non-qualify.

However, in many tricks the Set Up stance/position has no effect on the intent and/or content of the trick itself. Making the Set Up description more standardised would ensure that both Handler and Judge would be able to do/see the correct Set Up without having any detrimental effect on the trick itself. This would also decrease the comments of Trick Dog Test being too pedantic.

Starter tricks 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15 already have the same wording and many other tricks through the higher classes. This change would make 12 out of the 15 tricks in Starter and many more through the other classes have the same Set Up description.

**Consequential Changes:**

Tricks S.6, S.8, S.12, S.14, N.2, N.3, N.4, N.5, N.7, N.13, N.15, N.19, I.1, I.3, I.7, I.8, I.9, I.11, I.14, A.11, A.12, A.16.

**OLD RULE**

**S.1 Go Round - Once**

***Set up***

The handler will provide a cone or pole and will place it at least 0.5 m from the start point. The dog will be in a stance of the handler’s choice and close to the handler.

***Cue***

The handler will cue the dog to go round the cone/pole. The handler may take a step forward to send the dog but this step must not encroach on the minimum distance of 0.5m from the cone/pole.

**NEW RULE**

**S.1 Go Round - Once**

***Set up***

The handler will provide a cone or pole and will place it at least 0.5 m from the start point. The dog will be in a stance of the handler’s choice and close to the handler.

***Cue***

The handler will cue the dog to go round the cone/pole. The handler may take a step forward to send the dog but this step must not encroach on the minimum distance ~~of 0.5m~~ from the cone/pole.

**RATIONALE**

For clarification for handlers and judges the sentence ‘The handler may take a step forward to send the dog but this step must not encroach on the minimum distance of 0.5m from the cone/pole.’ has been made generic and should be added in to all the Go Round Tricks. This would keep the description in line with the other tricks which send the dog away from the handler e.g. Sendaway.

**CONSEQUENTIAL**

Add this sentence to N.2 and I.3.

**OLD RULE**

**S.1 Go Round - Once**

***Set up***

The handler will provide a cone or pole and will place it at least 0.5 m from the start point. The dog will be in a stance of the handler’s choice and close to the handler.

***Cue***

The handler will cue the dog to go round the cone/pole. The handler may take a step forward to send the dog but this step must not encroach on the minimum distance of 0.5m from the cone/pole.

***Action***

On cue the dog without stopping will leave the handler, go round the pole or cone in a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction, and will then return close to the handler.

**NEW RULE**

**S.1 Go Round - Once**

***Set up***

The handler will provide a cone or pole and will place it at least 0.5 m from the start point. The dog will be in a stance of the handler’s choice and close to the handler.

***Cue***

The handler will cue the dog to go round the cone/pole. The handler may take a step forward to send the dog but this step must not encroach on the minimum distance of 0.5m from the cone/pole.

***Action***

On cue the dog without stopping will leave the handler, go round the pole or cone (dog will pass the back of the cone once) in a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction, and will then return close to the handler.

**RATIONALE**

Clarification for handlers and judges. There has been much confusion on what constitutes ‘going round the cone’.

**OLD RULE**

**S.1 Go Round - Once**

***Set up***

The handler will provide a cone or pole and will place it at least 0.5 m from the start point. The dog will be in a stance of the handler’s choice and close to the handler.

**NEW RULE**

**S.1 Go Round - Once**

***Set up***

The handler will provide ~~a cone or pole~~ an object and will place it at least 0.5 m from the start point. The dog will be in a stance of the handler’s choice and close to the handler.

**RATIONALE**

As the intent of this trick (and other Go Round tricks) is for the dog to go round something and return to the handler this change would enable handlers to be more creative in what they use for the dog to go round e.g. chair, suitcase, box etc. The difficulty of the trick would remain the same but the change would allow for more variation.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE:**

Change the same wording in Tricks N.2, I.3.

Add Footnote – Examples of an object for the Go Round Tricks would be cone, pole, chair, suitcase, box etc.

**OLD RULE**

**S.4 Leg Weave – Stationary figure of 8**

***Set up***

The dog will be in a stance of the handler’s choice and may be on the left or right side of the handler.

***Cue***

The handler will have their legs apart and the handler’s feet will remain stationary until the dog has returned to the start position. The handler will cue the dog to weave through his legs.

**NEW RULE**

**S.4 Leg Weave – Stationary figure of 8**

***Set up***

The dog will be in a stance of the handler’s choice and may be on the left or right side of the handler.

***Cue***

~~The handler will have their legs apart and the handler’s feet will remain stationary until the dog has returned to the start position. The handler will cue the dog to weave through his legs.~~

The handler will move their legs apart and cue the dog to weave through his legs. The handler’s feet will remain stationary until the dog has completed the leg weave.

**RATIONALE**

The present description is not clear on whether the legs should be apart before the judge says ‘proceed’ or after the judge says ‘proceed. Clarification for handlers and judges.

**S. 9 Back Up – 1 body length**

***Action***

On cue the dog will back up at least one (1) body length. The handler will remain stationary but may take a step forward to initiate the movement; however, this step must not encroach on the minimum distance of 0.5 m from the dog which must be maintained throughout the trick.

**NEW RULE**

**S. 9 Back Up – 1 body length**

***Action***

On cue the dog will back up at least one (1) body length. The handler will remain stationary but may take a step forward to initiate the movement; however, this step must not encroach on the minimum distance of 0.5 m from the dog which must be maintained throughout the trick. The dog must back up substantially in a straight line.

**RATIONALE**

Clarification for both handler and judge and to bring conformity to all Back Up tricks descriptions.

**Consequential Changes:**

N.11, I.6, A.8.

**OLD RULE**

**S. 10 Send over Jump – from 1 metre**

***Action***

On cue the dog will jump over the jump, land on the other side and return close to the handler.

**NEW RULE**

**S. 10 Send over Jump – from 1 metre**

***Action***

On cue the dog will jump over the jump, land on the other side and return close to the handler. The dog may not back jump.

**RATIONALE**

The intent of the trick is for the dog to jump over the jump and return close to the handler not jump back over the jump before returning close to the handler.

This should also apply to N.12, A.14 and A.15.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE:**

The sentence ‘The dog may not back jump’ to be added to N.12, A.14 and A.15.

**OLD RULE**

**S. 11 Take a Bow - 2 seconds**

***Set up***

The dog will be in a stance of the handler’s choice (stand preferred). The dog may be in front of or beside the handler.

**NEW RULE**

**S. 11 Take a Bow - 2 seconds**

***Set up***

The dog will be in a stance of the handler’s choice. ~~(stand preferred).~~ The dog may be in front of or beside the handler.

**RATIONALE**

Not required.

**OLD RULE**

**S. 13 Find Straddle Position - 2 seconds**

***Set up***

The dog may be in any position other than straddle and, if behind the handler, will be at least one (1) body length away.

**S. 13 Find Straddle Position - 2 seconds**

***Set up***

The dog may be in any position other than straddle and, if behind the handler, will be at least one (1) ~~body length~~ metre away.

**RATIONALE**

By making it one metre rather than one body length this standardises the distance for each dog. Clarity for both Handler and Judge, especially as, at the moment, the description in Set Up for this trick across the various classes sometimes has one body length, sometimes one metre, and sometimes no specific distance.

**NEW RULE**

To keep conformity with the same trick across all classes it is proposed that the description in Set up for S.13 be used for all the Straddle tricks.

This would apply to S.13, N.18, I.17, A.21.

**RATIONALE**

At present there are slight differences in the wording of the description of Set up in each class. In reality, the requirement for the Set up can be the same for each trick. Therefore, in the interest of clarity it would be sensible to use the same descriptor for each trick.

**OLD RULE**

**S. 13 Find Straddle Position - 2 seconds**

***Set up***

The dog may be in any position other than straddle and, if behind the handler, will be at least one (1) body length away.

***Cue***

The handler will cue the dog to wait while he takes up position and moves his legs apart to form an inverted ‘V’. The handler will further cue the dog to move into straddle position.

**NEW RULE**

**S. 13 Find Straddle Position - 2 seconds**

***Set up***

The dog may be in any position other than straddle and, if behind the handler, will be at least one (1) body length away.

***Cue***

**The handler will move his legs apart to form an inverted ‘V’ and cue the dog to move into straddle position.**

**RATIONALE**

The description in Cue for all the Straddle tricks across the four classes has the same meaning but uses different terminology. For clarification for handlers and judges it is proposed to use the same wording across this trick in all four class levels.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES**

Change the wording in Cue in N.18, I.17, and A.21 to be the same as S.13

**OLD RULE**

**S. 14 Stationary Hold - 2 seconds**

***Set up***

The handler will provide a retrieve object (which may be a toy). The dog will be in a stance of the handler’s choice and may be directly in front of the handler or beside the handler.

**S. 14 Stationary Hold - 2 seconds**

***Set up***

The handler will provide a retrieve object (which may be a toy). The dog will be in a stance of the handler’s choice and ~~may be directly in front of the handler or beside the handler.~~ close to the handler.

**RATIONALE**

To make the wording generic for simplification.