

Southern Berkshire Golden Retriever Club
Winter Get Together
Obedience Discussion & Demonstration

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 - a. Novice
 - b. Open
 - c. Utility

1.a. Regular Titles

CD → Companion Dog: 3 qualifying scores in Novice A and/or B under 2 or 3 different judges

CDX → Companion Dog Excellent: 3 qualifying scores in Open A and/or B under 2 or 3 different judges

UD → Utility Dog: 3 qualifying scores in Utility A and/or B under 2 or 3 different judges

UDX → Utility Dog Excellent: Dog with a UD, receiving qualifying scores in both Open B & Utility B at 10 separate trials. A number is added (UDX2, UDX3, etc) for each additional 10 qualifying scores in both Open B & Utility B after the first 10.

OM → Obedience Master: Dog with a UD, earning points via scores above 190 in Open B & Utility B. Each score above 190 counts for points (6, 9, 12 or 15). OM1 requires 200 points of which at least 60 must come from Open B and at least 60 must come from Utility B. Each additional collection of points results in additional OM levels up to 9. The 10th collection of points results in the OGM (Obedience Grand Master) title.

OTCH → Obedience Trial Championship: Dog with a UD earning points based on placements in Open B & Utility B. Points are determined for 1st thru 4th place based on number of dogs competing in the class. Point schedule is different for Open B (minimum of 6 dogs) and Utility B (minimum of 3 dogs). Total points required is 100 plus a 1st place in Open B, a 1st place in Utility B plus a third 1st place in either class, all under different judges and with the minimum number of dogs competing.

NOC → National Obedience Champion: Dog that wins the National Obedience Championship. Dogs are invited based on ranking by OTCH points or based on accomplishments at regional competitions.

VCD → Versatile Companion Dog: VCD1, VCD2, VCD3 & VCD4 based on combination of CD, CDX, UD & UDX, respectively, with a corresponding level of title in agility plus a tracking title.

VCCH → Versatile Companion Champion: OTCH, MACH & CT or OTCH, PACH & CT.

1.b. Preferred Titles

PCD → Preferred Novice Dog: 3 qualifying scores in Preferred Novice under 2 or 3 different judges

PCDX → Preferred Open Dog: 3 qualifying scores in Preferred Open under 2 or 3 different judges

PUTD → Preferred Utility Dog: 3 qualifying scores in Preferred Utility under 2 or 3 different judges

PUDX → Preferred Utility Dog Excellent: Dog with a PUTD, receiving qualifying scores in both Preferred Open & Preferred Utility at 10 separate trials. A number is added (PUDX2, PUDX3, etc) for each additional 10 qualifying scores in both Open B & Utility B after the first 10.

POC → Preferred Obedience Champion: Dog with a PUTD, earning points via scores above 190 in Preferred Open & Preferred Utility. Each score above 190 counts for points (6, 9, 12 or 15). Title requires 750 points and qualifying scores in both Preferred Open and Preferred Utility at 20 separate trials. Number is added (POC2, POC3, etc) for each such qualification.

1.c Optional Titles

BN → Beginner Novice: 3 qualifying scores in Beginner Novice A and/or B under 2 or 3 different judges

GN → Graduate Novice: 3 qualifying scores in Graduate Novice under 2 or 3 different judges

GO → Graduate Open: 3 qualifying scores in Graduate Open under 2 or 3 different judges

VER → Versatility: 3 qualifying scores in Versatility under 2 or 3 different judges

2.a. Regular Classes

Novice A & B

- Novice A: Dogs without CD & handlers that have not handled a dog that earned a regular or preferred title.
- Novice B: Dogs without CD & dogs with CD until 1st place (after 60 days) or qualified in Open A or B.
- Exercises for both:
 - Heel on leash + figure 8 (40)
 - Stand for exam (30)
 - Heel free (40)
 - Recall (30)
 - Sit/stay for 1 minute (30)
 - Down/stay for 3 minutes (30)

Open A & B

- Open A: Dogs with CD but without CDX; handler cannot have trained or exhibited a dog that earned an OTCH.
- Open B: Dogs with CD or above & any handler.
- Exercises for both:
 - Heel free & figure 8 (40)
 - Drop on recall (30)
 - Retrieve on flat (20)
 - Retrieve over high jump (30)
 - Broad jump (20)
 - Sit/stay for 3 minutes, handler out of sight (30)
 - Down/stay for 5 minutes, handler out of sight (30)
- Open B exercises are in one of 6 different orders chosen by judge per his sequence.

Utility A & B

- Utility A: Dogs with CDX but without UD; handler cannot have trained or exhibited a dog that earned an OTCH.
- Utility B: Dogs with CDX or above & any handler.
- Exercises for both:
 - Signal exercise (40)
 - Scent discrimination article 1 (30)
 - Scent discrimination article 2 (30)
 - Directed retrieve (30)
 - Moving stand & examination (30)
 - Directed jumping (40)
- Utility B exercises are in one of 6 different orders chosen by judge per his sequence.
- Judge chooses glove, sequentially.

2.a. Regular Classes (continued)

Scoring:

- All dogs start with 200 points.
- To qualify as a leg or earn points toward a title & compete for placements or prizes, dog must earn at least 170 points and better than half of each exercise.
- Judge scores each exercise based on comparison to a standard of perfection.
- Penalties are typically of 3 types:
 - Those that result in failure of the exercise and therefore failure to qualify.
 - Those that result in major deductions, such as 3 or 5 points.
 - Those that result in minor deductions, such as ½ or 1 point.
- Scores do not affect whether dog qualifies.
- Scores only affect placements & OM points.
- Placements only affect ribbons, trophies, OTCH points and bragging rights.

2.b. Alternative Titling Classes (aka Preferred Classes)

Preferred Novice

- Dogs that have not won CDX or PCDX or higher.
- Same exercises as Novice A or B except no group exercises.
- Dog performs either sit or down with handler walking around ring.
- Judge decides whether dogs do sit or down, alternating each assignment.

Preferred Open

- Dogs that have won CD or PCD or higher.
- Same exercises as Open A or B except for group sits & downs.
- High jump set to at least $\frac{1}{2}$ height of the dog.
- Broad jump length set to twice height of high jump.
- Order of exercises varies similar to Open B.

Preferred Utility

- Dogs that have won CDX or PCDX or higher.
- Same exercises as Utility A or B.
- Jump heights set to at least $\frac{1}{2}$ height of the dog.

2.c Optional Titling Classes

Beginner Novice

- Beginner Novice A: Dogs that have not won any AKC obedience title & handler has not handled a dog that has won an AKC obedience title.
- Beginner Novice B: Dogs that have not earned any AKC obedience title other than BN, CD or PCD.
- Exercises:
 - Heel on leash (40)
 - Figure 8 (40)
 - Sit for Exam on leash (40)
 - Sit stay, handler walks around ring (40)
 - Recall, off leash (40)
- Handler allowed some praise during exercises.

Graduate Novice

- Any dog & any handler can enter this class.
- Exercises:
 - Heel free & figure 8 (40)
 - Drop on Recall (40)
 - Dumbbell recall (30)
 - Dumbbell recall over high jump (30)
 - Recall over broad jump (30)
 - Group exercise – sit or down (30)
- Judge decides whether dogs do sit or down, alternating each assignment.

Graduate Open

- Any dog & any handler can enter this class.
- Exercises:
 - Signal Exercise (40)
 - Scent discrimination, 4 articles, retrieves 1, handler's decision (30)
 - Go out, send from middle of ring to opposite end & sit. Handler returns to dog. (30)
 - Directed jumping, single jump chosen by judge, leave dog at go out spot (40)
 - Moving stand & examination (30)
 - Directed retrieve (30)
- Judge chooses jump & glove, sequentially.

Versatility

- Any dog, any handler.
- Judge chooses from 12 sequences.
- 2 Novice (25 each), 2 Open (35 each) & 2 Utility (40 each) exercises.
- No group exercises.

2.d. Non-Regular Classes

Wild Card Novice

- Handler chooses 1 Novice exercise to get full credit for.
- Praise allowed

Wild Card Open

- Handler chooses 1 Open exercise to get full credit for.
- Praise allowed

Wild Card Utility

- Handler chooses 1 Utility exercise to get full credit for.
- Praise allowed (except signal exercise)

Brace

- 2 dogs of same breed with single handler
- Novice exercises

Veterans

- Dogs at least 7 years old on the date of the trial
- Specialties can require a different age.
- Golden Retriever specialties are typically 8 years old.
- Novice exercises.

Team

- 4 dogs & handlers
- Novice exercises except drop on recall instead of recall.
- Fun class!

2.e Trials & Matches

Obedience Classes in Dog Shows: Obedience combined with conformation.

Obedience Trials: Obedience separate from dog shows.

OA Matches: Practice and qualification for a club wanting to hold obedience trials. Results don't count toward titles.

OB Matches: Less formal than obedience trial. Results don't count toward titles.

OC Matches: Similar to OB matches except it can include "run-throughs"; verbal corrections and gentle guidance is allowed; food and/or toys can be allowed if club decides. Results don't count toward titles.

Fun Matches: Similar to OB or OC matches but not sanctioned by AKC. Generally just for club members when put on by club licensed for obedience trials.

Other Venues: UKC (United Kennel Club), CKC (Canadian Kennel Club), CDSP (Companion Dog Sports Program), others?

Rally: Completely separate classes and titles. For another day...