

AKC Rally® Introduction

The *Obedience Regulations* and *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, where applicable, shall govern the conduct of rally trials and shall apply to all persons and dogs participating in them, except as these *Rally Regulations* may otherwise provide.

AKC Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by the rally judge. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at their own pace through a course of designated stations (10 – 20, depending on the level). Each of these stations has a sign providing instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed. Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience.

The team of dog and handler moves continuously at a brisk, but normal, pace with the dog under control at the handler's left side. There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during the numbered exercises and between the exercise signs; however, perfect "heel position" is not required.

Any faults in traditional obedience that would be evaluated and scored as a one-point deduction or more should be scored the same in Rally, unless otherwise mentioned in the "Rally Regulations".

After the judge's "Forward" order, the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered signs correctly.

Unlimited communication from the handler to the dog is to be encouraged and not penalized. Unless otherwise specified in these *Regulations*, handlers **are** permitted to talk, praise, encourage, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement.

Multiple commands and/or signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time.

The handler may **not** touch the dog or make physical corrections. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands or intimidating signals will be penalized.

Rally is a companion sport to obedience. Both require teamwork between dog and handler, along with similar performance skills. Rally provides an excellent introduction to AKC Companion Events for new dogs and handlers, and can provide a challenging opportunity for competitors in other events to strengthen their skills.

All rally titles will follow the dog's name.

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR RALLY TRIALS

Section 1 – Application to Hold a Rally Trial.

Clubs meeting the requirements of AKC that wish to hold a rally trial must submit the form provided by AKC with the appropriate application fee. A rally trial is a separate event, with a separate event number, and the rally application with appropriate fee must be submitted at least TWENTY-FOUR (24) WEEKS before the closing date for entries to the event.

In order for a club to receive AKC approval to hold a rally trial, the club must hold an obedience trial with all regular obedience classes offered in conjunction with the rally trial. If the obedience trial is to be limited, the rally trial must also be limited to not exceed the number of hours as the limited obedience trial. The rally trial must have the same format as the obedience trial, i.e. All-Breed, Group, or Breed Specialty. One rally trial will be approved for each obedience trial.

Section 2 – Premium Lists and Catalogs. A premium list and a catalog must be provided for a Rally Trial.

However, they may be separate documents or they may be included with the obedience, all-breed, or specialty trial premium list and catalog. **The jump heights in the catalog for the Rally Advanced and Rally Excellent Classes will be arranged in either ascending or descending order.**

Section 3 – Catalog Order. *The Rally Regulations* require that dogs be judged in catalog order to the extent practical, without holding up the judging. A judge need not mark absentees in the judge's book until the end of the class. Judges are not required to wait for dogs.

For the Advanced and Excellent Classes, the Trial Secretary or Superintendent shall arrange entries according to the dogs' height, ranging from either low to high or high to low.

Section 4 – Judging Schedule. The judging schedule will be based on the judging of no more than 22 dogs per hour. Walk throughs should be performed as outlined in the *Rally Regulations*, Chapter 2, Section 2 – entry Limits and Section 7 – Familiarization Time.

A & B Classes at the same title level may be combined for judging if the total combined entry for both classes is not more than 22 dogs.

Section 5 – Recording Fees. At every licensed or member club rally trial, a recording fee of \$3.00 shall be required for each entry of each dog. A marked

catalog and all recording fees must be sent to AKC so as to reach its office within seven (7) days after the close of the trial.

CHAPTER 2

GENERAL PROCEDURES

Section 1 - Space Requirements. **The recommended ring sizes for Rally are 40x50 feet to 50x60 feet or any combination of the sizes in between.**

The floor covering or ground surface must be the same as would be suitable for traditional AKC obedience trials.

Section 2 - Entry Limits. Entry limits may be based on ring availability, or as specified by the club offering the event. The judging program will schedule no more than 22 dogs per hour, **nor will any judge be assigned for more than eight hours in one day. Judges may take 45 minutes to one hour for rest or meal breaks at their discretion.**

Section 3 - Armbands. Exhibitors shall be provided armbands or stickers, which must be worn on the upper left arm, indicating their dog's order in the class.

Section 4 – Signs and Holders. **The designated wording and symbols must be used.** Signs must be a minimum of 8-1/2 x 11 inches and a maximum of 11 x 17 inches. Weather conditions should be considered when securing signs and holders.

Colors used are optional. Twenty exercise sign holders are required plus one each for the Start and Finish signs. All sign holders or signs (not including those for Start and Finish) will be clearly and sequentially numbered on the course, with numbers approximately 3 inches high. Signs with an asterisk (numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 19, and 34) may be used multiple times on a rally course. Two of each of those signs must be available for the judge's use. All other signs may only be used once on any course. **Stationary exercises are any signs indicating a "Halt" or no forward motion.**

Section 5 - Placement of Signs

Signs will be placed to the right of the handler's path except for those indicating a change in direction, in which case the sign will be directly in front of the handler to aid in that change. Exercises using cones may require entry with the sign on the left. Exact placement of signs is made by the judge while walking the course along the path that will be taken by the handlers.

The course for each class will be posted at the ring prior to the Familiarization Time (see below). If possible,

copies will be given to exhibitors at check-in when armbands are distributed for the class. The course used for that day's event **must** accompany the judge's book when turned in to the trial secretary or superintendent, who will forward it to AKC.

Section 6 - Location of Performance in relation to Signs. Except for exercises requiring entry with the sign on the left, exercises are performed near the designated signs, either directly in front, or in front and to the left of the signs. **For stations where the handler and dog are required to make a side step to the right, the sign shall be placed in the initial path of the handler and dog thus requiring the team to make a sufficient size side step to the right in order pass the sign on the right.**

Section 7 – Familiarization Time. A *10* minute walk through for *approximately each two hours of judging will be* allowed for handlers without their dogs *After each two-hour period of judging, judges should allow an additional 10-minute walk-through for the next two-hour block of dogs to be judged in the class.*

When the same course is used for *A and B Classes*, the judge may choose to combine the walk through times. The judge must be available in the ring during this period to answer any questions the handlers might have. The judge may also choose to brief the handlers on the course during this period.

Walk through times need only be published in the judging program and catalog for the first Rally class scheduled, and shall show a time of 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time for the class. After each two hours of judging, judges should allow a 10 minute walk through for the next two hours of dogs to be judged.

Section 8 – Judging. The judges' orders will be, "Are you ready?" followed by, "Forward." No other orders are necessary.

Section 9 - Qualifying Scores and General Scoring.

To qualify dog and handler must receive a minimum score of 70 points out of a possible perfect score of 100. A Rally title may be added after the dog's name when three qualifying scores have been earned under at least two different judges.

Scoring for all levels is based on a maximum score of 100 points. **Unofficial scores will be posted ringside after each dog has completed the final exercise.**

Times will be recorded but not posted. Times will be used only to break ties for placements. The maximum number of points that can be deducted for any station is 10; with the exception of a non-

qualifying performance. The following deductions shall apply:

1 point deduction for each of the following:

- tight leash
- dog interfering with handler
- poor sits
- slow, delay, or resistance to respond
- touching or ticking a jump, pylon, post or person
- out of position

3 point deduction for each of the following:

- repeat of a station (**only 1 retry of each station will be allowed for all class levels**)
- pylon/post knocked over on Figure Eight, Spiral, and Serpentine)
- lack of control
- loud command or intimidating signal
- excessive barking
- hitting the jump

10 point deduction for each of the following:

- incorrectly performed station
- **failure to complete the Honor Exercise (IP) – No retries allowed**

1 to 10 point deduction:

- lack of teamwork
- *lack of briskness*
- *handler error**

Non-qualifying (NQ) scores shall be given for:

- minimum requirements not met
- dog unmanageable, or uncontrolled barking
- consistently tight lead
- **eliminates while in the ring for judging**
- **knocking over a jump**
- bar knocked off the uprights
- handler error*
- **station not attempted by handler**
- **using a jump as an aid in going over**
- **walking through or on the Broad Jump boards**
- **dog attempts Broad Jump but does not clear entire jump**
- **failure of dog to go over the jump in the proper direction.**

***Handler errors can be assessed from 1 to 10 points up to non qualifying. Handler errors can be assessed at any station or during movement between stations on a course. Once a handler has stopped on**

any halt exercise, the handler cannot move his feet to assist a dog without incurring a handler error.

***Incorrectly Performed (IP) stations occur when a team attempts a station and fails to perform the principle parts of the station on the 1st attempt. The handler may choose to retry the station once, for a correct performance, accepting the mandatory 3-point deduction for the retry of the station. The station is considered an IP if the handler chooses not to retry or fails to perform the station correctly on the 2nd attempt.**

The table steward is responsible for totaling deductions on the judge's worksheet and transferring them to the official judge's book. Final scores may be recorded in the official judge's book by the table steward; however, the judge must verify the scores and sign the book prior to awarding ribbons.

Section 10 - Timing. All dogs will be timed. Times will be used only in the event of ties for a placement, as mentioned in Section 9. Timing will begin when the Judge gives the order, "Forward" and will end when dog and handler cross the Finish Station. In the case of tie scores, the dog completing the course in the least amount of time will receive the higher placement. The original scores will not be changed. In the event that both the score and time are the same, the dog will repeat the course and timed again. **The original scores will not be changed, but a plus (+) will be added after the score of the dog winning the runoff.**

Times will be entered to the 1/100 of a second on all runs. In the event of a timing malfunction the Timer will notify the judge and Table steward immediately after the dog and handler have finished running the course. No time will be recorded for the team at that time. In the event of a tie at the end of the class and the dog does not have a time, the judge shall offer the handler the following options:

- **Option 1 – The ability to run the course again for time and score. If the dog's score is better than the initial run, the team shall be considered to have won the placement with its original score and the time from the re-run. If the dog's score is less than the original score from the first run the team will be placed below its competitor's with the same score. If there are multiple ties, at the same score, the original scores shall be kept and the new tiebreaker scores and times shall**

be used to determine the winner of the run off.

- **Option 2 – The team may keep their original score and accept the loss of the re-run off for any placement.**

Section 11 - Ribbons and Prizes. Awards for the four placements in each class will be based solely on the number of points earned, with the exception of ties. There **are** no awards for competition between classes. **Prizes, ribbons and awards must be offered for each class.** All ribbons and rosettes will be at least 2 inches wide and a minimum of 8 inches long. Ribbons/rosettes also will bear the following: the seal of AKC, the words “RALLY TRIAL”, the placement (or “Qualifying Score”), and the name of the trial giving club. The colors for ribbons should be in accordance with Chapter 1, Section 19 of the *Obedience Regulations*.

CHAPTER 3

CLASSES AND TITLES

Section 1 - Rally Novice Class. All exercises are judged on leash, and all dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. The leash must be made of fabric or leather and needs to be long enough to provide adequate slack.

Rally Novice A and B must have between 10 – 15 stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5)

Stationary Exercises per class.

The Rally Novice A Class. **To be eligible for entry in this class, dogs may not have won an AKC Rally Novice (RN) title or any AKC obedience title, prior to the close of entries.** A handler must own the dog entered or be a member of the owner’s household or immediate family. The handler may not have previously handled any dog that has earned an AKC rally title or any AKC obedience title. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. After a dog earns the Rally Novice (RN) title, it may continue to compete in this class for 60 days. No dog may be entered in both Rally Novice A and Rally Novice B at any one trial.

The Rally **Novice B** Class. Any dog may **be entered** in this class until a qualifying score in the Rally Advanced Class is earned. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. No dog may be entered in both Rally Novice A and Rally Novice B at any one trial.

Section 2 - Rally Advanced Class. All exercises are judged off leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash.

Rally Advanced A and B must have between 12 – 17 stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) Stationary Exercises; courses shall have a minimum of three (3) Advanced level stations plus the one (1) required jump per class.

The Rally **Advanced A Class** **To be eligible for this class** dogs **shall** have won the Rally Novice (RN) title but have not won the Rally Advanced (RA) title or any AKC obedience title, **prior to the close of entries.** A handler must own the dog entered or be a member of the owner's household or immediate family. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. After a dog earns the Rally Advanced (RA) title, it may continue to compete in this class for 60 days. No dog may be entered in both Rally Advanced A and Rally Advanced B at any one trial.

The Rally **Advanced B Class** **To be eligible for entry into this class competing** dogs **shall** have won the Rally Novice (RN) title, **prior to close of entries.** A dog completing the Rally Advanced (RA) title may continue to compete in this class indefinitely. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. No dog may be entered in both Rally Advanced A and Rally Advanced B at any one trial.

Section 2A – Jumps. One jump *must* be used for this class. It may be any jump used as standard equipment in AKC obedience classes (Broad Jump, High Jump, or Bar Jump), except that 4 foot wide jumps may be used in place of 5 foot wide jumps. **A 4 inch High Jump Board and Bar Jump will be supplied for dogs that have a height at the withers of less than 8 inches. This jump will be constructed so the maximum height does not exceed 4 inches with a ½ inch tolerance. This can be a separate board or support system to be placed between the two standard uprights. The Bar or High Jump board used to create this 4 inch height can be supported by means other than the 2 standard uprights. Designs should be such that they do not interfere with the jumping of a dog.** Various colors and decorations are allowed; however, there must be nothing hanging from the jump. It is the judge's responsibility to see that the jumps are set for each dog in accordance with these Regulations. The **Broad Jump** will consist of three telescoping hurdles, each approximately 8 inches wide. The largest

board will measure about 4 feet 10 inches long (if from a 5 foot set) and about 5 inches at the highest point. In the ring, Broad Jump boards will be arranged in order of size from smallest to largest. They will be evenly spaced, covering a distance equal to twice the height of the High Jump set for each dog. Three boards will be used for a jump of 32 inches and two boards for a jump of 16 or 24 inches, **and one board will be used for a jump of 8 inches.** When decreasing the number of hurdles in the jump, the highest will be removed first.

The **High Jump** consists of two uprights and solid boards of varying widths that combine to make each dog's required jump height.

The **Bar Jump** also has two uprights. These are constructed to support only a striped bar which is set at the dog's required jump height. **The bar jump may be used in the same way as the high jump however if the bar jump is to be used as a jump in both directions, the uprights must be offset to allow the bar to be knocked off from either direction.**

Section 2B - Jump Heights. The dog's jump height shall be given on the entry form. Entries may be arranged according to the jump height of the dogs, from either high to low or low to high.

Height of Dog at Withers Height to be Jumped

Less than 8 inches	4 inches
8 inches to less than 15 inches	8 inches
15 inches to less than 20 inches	12 inches
20 inches and over	16 inches

Section 3 - Rally Excellent Class. All exercises are judged off leash except the Honor Exercise.

(Handler must provide a 6 foot leash when participating in the Honor Exercise.) All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash.

Rally Excellent must have between 15 – 20 stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) Stationary Exercises, courses shall have a minimum of three (3) Advanced level stations, and a minimum of two (2) Excellent level stations, plus the two (2) required jumps and the Honor exercise per class.

Unlike in the Rally Novice and Advanced Classes, in Rally Excellent handlers are not allowed to pat their legs or clap their hands to encourage the dog. Verbal encouragement, multiple commands, and/or inaudible signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. Handlers may not touch their dog or make any physical corrections.

The Rally **Excellent A Class** **To be eligible for entry into this class competing** dogs **shall** have won the Rally Advanced (RA) title, but have not won the Rally Excellent (RE) title or any AKC obedience title, **prior to the close of entries.** A handler must own the dog entered or be a member of the owner's household or immediate family. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. After earning the Rally Excellent (RE) title, a dog may continue to compete in this class for 60 days. No dog may be entered in both Rally Excellent A and Rally Excellent B at any one trial.

The Rally **Excellent B Class** **To be eligible for entry in this class competing** dogs **shall** have won the Rally Advanced (RA) title, **prior to the close of entries.** A dog completing the Rally Excellent (RE) title may continue to compete in this class indefinitely. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. No dog may be entered in both Rally Excellent A and Rally Excellent B at any one trial.

Two jumps must be used for this class. Jumps may be any jump or any combination of the jumps that may be used as standard equipment in the AKC obedience classes (Broad Jump, High Jump, or Bar Jump), except that 4 foot jumps may be used in place of 5 foot jumps. Various colors and decorations are allowed; however, there must be nothing hanging from the jump. Jumps may not be used consecutively on the course.

Section 4 - The Honor Exercise

Prior to each class, the judge will designate either the sit or the down for the Honor Exercise, as well as the placement **of the exercise within the ring and when the Honor is to be done by each dog. The Honor exercise must not be in the path of the course.**

After having been directed by the judge or Honor steward to the Honor Exercise station, the Honor handler will command the Honor dog to take the designated position. When the judge commands the running dog and handler to begin the course with the order "Forward", the Honor handler will command his dog to "Stay", move forward to the end of a 6 foot leash, turn, and face his dog. The Honor steward will indicate the completion of the scoring of the Honor Exercise when the running dog and handler have crossed the finish station by giving the order "Exercise Finished". The Honor handler will then return to and release his dog from the stay. The Honor dog must maintain the designated position throughout the entire performance of the running dog and handler without receiving physical assistance from the Honor handler. There will be no

retry allowed or the Honor Exercise. If the course run is interrupted at any time for any reason the judge will direct the Honor steward to give the “Exercise Finished” order and the Honor Exercise will be considered complete.

The Honor steward will monitor the performance of each Honor dog. The judge will determine the score to be entered into the judge’s book based upon the description of the performance from the Honor steward.

The Honor Exercise is not to be considered one of the Stationary Exercises on the course.

Section 5 – The Rally Advanced Excellent title.

Upon completion of the Rally Excellent title, qualifying scores may be accumulated from the Rally Advanced B Class and the Rally Excellent B Class to earn the Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE) title.

In order to receive the RAE title, a dog must qualify ten (10) times in both the Rally Advanced B Class and the Rally Excellent B Class at the same trial. The RAE title will appear at the end of the dog’s name and a numeric designation will indicate the number of times the dog has met RAE requirements, i.e. RAE2, RAE3, etc.

RALLY GLOSSARY

Brisk, briskly – keenly alive, alert, energetic.

Incorrectly Performed Station (IP) – one or more principal parts of a station not performed or performed incorrectly.

Lame – irregularity or impairment of the function of locomotion, irrespective of the cause or severity. Call made by the judge.

Pause -- a complete stop of forward motion by the handler

Pivot - turning in the circle that was occupied by the handler before they started the turn; a turn in place

Repeat of Station/Retry – a station that is repeated in its entirety, including the approach, before beginning the next station.

Station Not Attempted By The Handler - Station skipped/missed by handler before attempting the next station.

For additional terms, refer to the Obedience Regulations Glossary.

RALLY JUDGES GUIDELINES

The Obedience Regulations and Rules Applying to Dogs Shows, where applicable, shall govern the conduct of rally trials and shall apply to all persons and dogs participating in them, except as these *Rally Judges Guidelines* may otherwise provide.

These guidelines reflect the policies and practices approved by the AKC Board of Directors. Judges are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the guidelines in this booklet. Failure to comply with these guidelines subjects a judge to possible disciplinary action.

PURPOSE

Rally, like other AKC Companion Event activities, is a sport in which all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship both inside and outside the ring. Rally trials demonstrate the usefulness of the purebred dog as a companion of mankind, not merely the dog's ability to follow specified routines in the ring.

All participants in the rally classes are required to perform the same exercises in substantially the same way so that the quality of the various performances may be compared and scored. The basic objective of Rally is to provide an activity that does not require extensive precision for success. Dogs who participate in Rally are dogs that have been trained and conditioned to behave in the home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs. Dogs in rally events should demonstrate willingness and enjoyment. To that end, handlers may use encouragement, praise, and body language throughout the rally course.

CHAPTER 1

THE RALLY JUDGE

Section 1 – Judging Assignments. ASSIGNMENT RESTRICTIONS - A judge will not be approved to judge the same rally class at all-breed or group events within 30 days and 200 straight-line miles of each other with the following exceptions:

- *A judge may accept assignments to judge the same classes for two rally trials that fall on the same day at the same site; or*
- *A judge may accept assignments to judge two rally trials over the course of two consecutive days at the same site or within a local geographical area as determined by the AKC.*

Assignments to judge the same class or classes at two breed specialty rally trials are not considered to be in

conflict unless the two specialties are for the same breed;

Breed specialty rally assignments are not in conflict with an assignment to judge the same class (es) at an all breed or group rally trial; A judge's assignment or combined assignments for any day shall not exceed eight hours.

Section 2 - Know the Rally Regulations. *Rally Regulations* are the basic guide to judging. However, not every possible fault or error is covered, only the more common and serious ones.

Rally Regulations clearly define the exercises, their order and the standard by which they are to be judged. The *Rally Regulations* set the standard for a perfect score of 100 points by which each dog's performance is judged.

Rally Regulations give the judge guidelines for how an exercise is to be performed. While rally is not judged with the same precision as formal obedience, rally judges must make decisions based on a mental picture of the perfect performance within the framework of the *Rally Regulations*.

Studying *Rally Regulations*, exhibiting, and attending AKC Companion Events seminars all increase a judge's knowledge. Putting the acquired knowledge into practice permits a judge to apply the principles of sound judging contained in the *Rally Regulations*.

Judges are given full discretionary authority within the framework of the *Rally Regulations*, and they must exercise this authority impartially. Judges are required to make their own decisions and accept the responsibility this implies. If a decision depends on the exact wording of the *Rally Regulations*, the judge is expected to consult the book before making the decision. A judge may not discard, modify, or require anything not specified in the *Rally Regulations*. A rally title is intended to evoke admiration. Therefore, the title must be based on performances that fully meet the requirements of the *Rally Regulations*. Scores for each exercise must be amply justified by the performance of dog and handler. The owner of any dog receiving a qualifying score in rally has every reason to be proud. Earning a qualifying score should indicate a credible performance that fully justifies the eventual awarding of a title.

CHAPTER 2

PREPARATION FOR JUDGING

Section 1 – The Judge's Checklist. Ring – **Arrival at the show – The judge should plan to arrive a**

minimum of 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start of judging, unless prior judging assignment conflicts. Upon arrival, the judge **will** post the course(s) outside the ring.

Prior to the scheduled judging time, the judge **will** inspect the ring, which must meet all requirements of the *Rally Regulations* Chapter 2, Section 1. Size shall be determined by the judge pacing the ring.

Checking the ring also requires the judge to:

- examine signs and sign holders to ensure they are secure.
- examine the distractions used in the Offset Figure 8 to determine that they can be seen and smelled but not consumed.
- measure the jumps in the Advanced and Excellent Classes to ensure they meet the requirements as described in *Rally Regulations*, Chapter 3, Section 2A.

Catalog Order - The *Rally Regulations* require that dogs be judged in catalog order to the extent practical, without holding up the judging in any ring. For the Advanced and Excellent classes, the trial secretary or superintendent may arrange entries according to the dogs' heights, ranging from either low to high or high to low. A judge need not mark absentees in the judge's book until the end of the class. Judges are not required to wait for dogs.

Judging Schedule - The judging schedule will be based on no more than **22** dogs per hour. *Walk throughs should be performed as outlined in the Rally Regulations, Chapter 2, Sections 2 – Entry Limits and 7 – Familiarization Time.* Additionally, judges may take rest or meal breaks at their discretion.

CHAPTER 3

RING PROCEDURES

Section 1 – Judging the Dogs. **Unofficial** scores, but not times, shall be posted ringside after each dog has completed the final exercise. The judge should honor an exhibitor's request to be excused.

CHAPTER 4

THE JUDGE'S BOOK

Section 1 – When Judging is Finished. The judge must **first assure his judge's books are complete and all scores, times, absences, excusals or other necessary information have been entered correctly.** **The Judge must then sign the judge's book.** The book, along with a copy of each course for the

completed class, is then returned to the trial secretary, **Rally** chair, or superintendent who will scan the book for obvious omissions or oversights, which then can be corrected immediately **by the judge**.

Judges should retain their records for at least 6 months, in case such records are required by the AKC in order to review the results of a particular class.

Section 2 – Judge’s Score Sheets and Records.

Judges are not required to display or show exhibitors their individual worksheets. Judges will retain their records, copies of worksheets, copies of judges books etc., for at least 6 months, in case such records are required by AKC in order to review the results of a particular class.

Section 3 – Explanations and Errors. After the class is finished judges are not required to explain their scoring, and should not enter into a discussion with a dissatisfied exhibitor. Any interested person who thinks there may have been a numerical error or an error in identifying a dog may report the facts to one of the stewards, the judge, the superintendent, or to the show or trial secretary so that the matter may be checked.

Section 4 – Responsibility to Exhibitors. Each exhibitor has paid an entry fee for the purpose of competing and having the dog’s performance evaluated. Judges are expected to be friendly and courteous to all who enter the ring. Without exhibitors, there would be no trials. For every experienced exhibitor there are many newcomers. The future of this sport is in the hands of the novice. After a judge completes an assignment and has turned in the judge’s book, the judge may discuss an individual dog’s performance with the handler. However, a judge should never continue a conversation with an angry or aggressive person.

Rally Sign Descriptions

Designated wording for Rally. Judges may use duplicates of stations marked with an asterisk in designing their courses

The Principal Part of the exercises are highlighted.

THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES MAY BE USED IN ALL CLASS LEVELS

1. **START** – Indicates the beginning of the course.
2. **FINISH** – Indicates the end of the course - timing stops.
3. **HALT – Sit.** While heeling, the handler halts and the dog sits in heel position. The team then moves forward, with the dog in heel position. (Stationary exercise)
4. **HALT – Down Dog.** While heeling, the handler halts and the dog sits. The handler then commands the dog to down, followed by the command to heel forward from the down position. (Stationary exercise)
5. * **Right Turn.** Performed as a 90° turn to the right, as in traditional obedience.
6. * **Left Turn.** Performed as a 90° turn to the left, as in traditional obedience.
7. * **About Turn – Right.** While heeling, the team makes a 180° about turn to the handler's right.
8. * **“U” Turn.** While heeling, the team makes a 180° turn to the handler's left.
9. * **270° Right Turn.** While heeling, the team makes a 270° turn to the handler's right. 270° turns are performed as a tight circle, but not around the exercise sign.
10. * **270° Left Turn.** While heeling, the team makes a 270° turn to the handler's left. 270° turns are performed as a tight circle, but not around the exercise sign.
11. **360° Right Turn.** While heeling, the team makes a 360° turn to the handler's right. 360° turns are performed as a tight circle, but not around the exercise sign.
12. **360° Left Turn.** While heeling, the team makes a 360° turn to the handler's left. 360° turns are performed as a tight circle, but not around the exercise sign.

13. **Call Dog Front – Finish Right - Forward.** While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (*dog sits in front* and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. **Second part of exercise directs handler to command the *dog to change from the front position by moving to the handler's right, around behind the handler* toward heel position. As the dog clears the handler's path, the handler moves forward before the dog has completely returned to the heel position. The *dog does not sit before moving forward* in heel position with the handler. (Stationary Exercise)**

14. **Call Dog Front – Finish Left - Forward.** While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (*dog sits in front* and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. **Second part of exercise directs handler to command the *dog to change from the front position by moving to the handler's left* toward heel position. As the dog clears the handler's path, the handler moves forward before the dog has completely returned to the heel position. The *dog does not sit before moving forward* in heel position with the handler. (Stationary Exercise)**

15. **Call Dog Front – Finish Right - HALT.** While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (*dog sits in front* and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. Second part is the *finish to the right*, where the dog must return to heel position by moving around the right side of the handler. *Dog must sit* in heel position before moving forward with the handler. (**Stationary exercise**)

16. **Call Dog Front – Finish Left - HALT.** While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (*dog sits in front* and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to a sit in the front position. Second part is the *finish to the left*, where the dog must return to heel position by moving around the left side of the handler and sits in heel position. *Dog must sit* in heel position before moving forward in heel position with the handler. (**Stationary exercise**)

17. **Slow Pace.** *Dog and handler must slow down noticeably.* This must be followed by a normal pace, unless it is the last station in the class.

18. **Fast Pace.** *Dog and handler must speed up noticeably.* This must be followed by a normal pace.

19. * **Normal Pace.** Dog and handler must move forward, walking briskly and naturally. This station can only be used after a change of pace.

20. **Moving Side Step Right.** While heeling, the handler takes one step to the right leading with the right foot and continues moving forward along the newly established line. The dog moves with the handler. The exercise shall be performed just before the exercise sign. (This exercise shall be considered a change of direction and the sign shall be placed directly in line with the handler's path requiring the handler and dog to side step to the right to pass the sign.)

21. **Spiral Right – Dog Outside.** This exercise requires three pylons or posts placed in a straight line with spaces between them of approximately 6 - 8 feet. Spiral Right indicates the handler must turn to the right when moving around each pylon or post. This places the dog on the outside of the turns (See 1A and 1B). The exercise sign is placed near or on the first pylon or post where the spiral is started.

22. **Spiral Left – Dog Inside.** This exercise requires three pylons or posts placed in a straight line with spaces between them of approximately 6 - 8 feet. Spiral Left indicates that the handler must turn to the left when moving around each pylon or post. This places the dog on the inside of the turns (See 2). The exercise sign is placed near or on the first pylon or post where the spiral is started.

23. **Straight Figure 8 Weave Twice.** This exercise requires four pylons or posts placed in a straight line with spaces between them of approximately 6 - 8 feet. The exercise sign is placed near or on the first pylon or post where the exercise is started. Entry into the weaving pattern is with the first pylon or post at the dog/handler's left side. The dog and handler must complete the entire exercise by passing the last pylon or post.

24. **Serpentine Weave Once.** This exercise requires pylons or posts placed in a straight line with spaces between them of approximately 6 - 8 feet. The exercise sign is placed near or on the first pylon or post where the exercise is started. Entry into the weaving pattern is with the first pylon or post at the dog/handler's left side. The dog and handler must complete the entire exercise by passing the last pylon or post. It should be noted that in this exercise, the team does not weave back through the obstacles as they do in the Straight Figure 8.

25. **HALT – 1, 2 and 3 Steps Forward.** The handler halts and the dog sits in heel position to begin the exercise. The handler takes one step forward and halts, with the dog maintaining heel position. The dog sits when the handler halts. This is followed by two steps forward - halt, and three steps forward - halt, with the dog heeling each time the handler moves forward, and sitting each time the handler halts. (Stationary exercise)

26. **Call Front – 1, 2 and 3 Steps Backward.** While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (*dog sits in front* and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to a sit in the front position. With the dog in the front position, the *handler takes one step backward and halts*. The *dog moves with the handler and sits* in the front position as the handler halts. This is followed by the *handler taking two steps backward and a halt*, and *three steps backward and a halt. Each time, the dog moves with the handler to the front position and sits as the handler halts*. The handler then commands the dog to resume heel position. **When returning to the heel position the dog does not sit before the handler moves forward.** (Stationary exercise)

27. **Stop and Down.** While moving with the dog in heel position, the handler commands the *dog to down*, as the *handler comes to a stop* next to the dog. Once the *dog is completely down*, the handler moves forward commanding the *dog to move forward from down position*. (Stationary exercise)

28. **HALT – Fast Forward from Sit.** The *handler halts and the dog sits* in heel position. With the dog sitting in heel position, the *handler commands the dog to heel and immediately moves forward at a fast pace*. This must be followed by a normal pace. (Stationary exercise)

29. **Left About Turn.** While moving with the dog in heel position, the *handler makes an about turn to the left*, while at the same time, the *dog must move around the handler to the right* and into heel position. The *dog does not sit* before moving forward in heel position with the handler.

30. **HALT and Walk Around Dog.** *Handler halts and dog sits*. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler commands the *dog to stay*, then proceeds to *walk around the dog to the left*, returning to heel position. The *handler must pause* in heel position before moving forward to the next station. (Stationary exercise)

31. **HALT, Down – Walk Around Dog.** *Handler halts and dog sits*. With dog sitting in heel position, the handler commands the *dog to down and stay*, then proceeds to *walk around the dog to the left*, returning to heel position. The *handler must pause* in heel position before moving forward to the next station. The *dog heels forward from the down position*. (Stationary exercise)

THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES MAY BE USED IN ADVANCED AND EXCELLENT CLASSES ONLY

32. **HALT – About Turn Right and Forward.** *Handler halts and dog sits*. With the dog sitting in heel position, the *team turns 180° to the right and immediately moves forward*. (Stationary exercise)

33. **HALT – About “U” Turn and Forward.** *Handler halts and dog*

sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the team turns 180° to the left and immediately moves forward. (Stationary exercise)

34. * **Send Over Jump – Handler Passes By.** While moving with the dog in heel position, the handler directs the dog to take the jump, as the handler passes by the jump without any pause, hesitation or stopping. When the dog has completed the jump in the proper direction, it is called to heel position and the team continues to the next exercise.

35. **HALT – Turn Right One Step – Call to Heel - Halt.** Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting, the handler commands the dog to stay. The handler then turns to the right, while taking one step in that direction, and halts. The dog is directed to heel position and must move and sit in the new location before moving forward to the next station. (Stationary exercise)

36. **HALT – Stand Dog – Walk Around.** Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler will stand the dog, command the dog to stay as the handler walks around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station. In the Advanced Class, the handler may touch the dog, move forward to stand the dog, and may pose the dog as in the show ring. (Stationary exercise)

37. **HALT - 90° Pivot Right – HALT.** Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler pivots 90° to the right and halts. The dog moves with the handler and sits in heel position. (Stationary exercise)

38. **HALT - 90° Pivot Left – HALT.** Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler pivots 90° to the left and halts. The dog moves with the handler and sits in heel position. (Stationary exercise)

39. **Offset Figure 8.** This exercise requires two pylons or posts placed about 8 – 10 feet apart, around which the team will perform a complete Figure 8, crossing the center line 3 times. Two distractions will be arranged to the sides of the Figure 8 about 5 – 6 feet apart. Entry may be between the pylons or posts and the distraction on either side (See 3A and 3B). The distractions will consist of two **securely** covered containers with tempting dog treats; however, dog toys may replace one or both containers, or may be placed next to the containers. The exercise sign may be placed on or near the cone where entry is made into the Offset Figure 8.

40. **HALT – Side-step Right –HALT.** The handler halts in front of the station sign and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler moves one step directly to the right and halts. The dog moves with the handler and sits in heel position when the handler halts. **The exercise shall be performed just before the exercise sign. (This**

exercise shall be considered a change of direction and the sign shall be placed directly in line with the handler's path requiring the handler and dog to side step to the right to pass the sign.)

(Stationary exercise)

41. HALT – Call Dog Front - Finish Right. Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler calls the dog to front and the dog sits in the front position facing the handler. On command, the dog then moves from the front position around the right of the handler and sits in heel position. Handler must not step forward or backward to aid dog during exercise. (Stationary exercise)

42. HALT - Call Dog Front - Finish Left. Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler calls the dog to front and the dog sits in the front position facing the handler. On command, the dog then moves to the handler's left and sits in heel position. Handler must not step forward or backward to aid dog during exercise. (Stationary exercise)

43. HALT - 180° Pivot Right – HALT. Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler pivots 180° to the right and halts. The dog moves with the handler and sits in heel position. (Stationary exercise)

44. HALT - 180° Pivot Left – HALT. Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler pivots 180° to the left and halts. The dog moves with the handler and sits in heel position. (Stationary exercise)

45. HALT, Down, Sit – Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the handler commands the dog to down, then to sit. (Stationary exercise)

THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES MAY BE USED IN THE EXCELLENT CLASS ONLY

46. HALT, Stand, Down - Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the handler will stand the dog (without physical handling or moving forward), then commands the dog to down. The handler then commands the dog to heel forward from the down position. (Stationary exercise)

47. HALT, Stand, Sit - Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the handler will stand the dog (without physical handling or moving forward), then commands the dog to sit. The handler then commands the dog to heel forward from the sitting position. (Stationary exercise)

48. Moving stand, Walk around dog – While heeling and without pausing, the handler will stand the dog, and walk around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The handler must pause in heel position after returning to the dog. Dog must move forward from the standing position.

48a Moving down, Walk around dog – While heeling and without pausing, the handler will down the dog, and walk around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The handler must pause in heel position after returning to the dog. The dog must move forward from the down position.

49. Backup 3 steps – While heeling, the handler reverses direction walking backward at least 3 steps, without first stopping, then continues heeling forward. The dog moves backward with the handler and maintains heel position throughout the exercise without sitting.

50. Honor – This exercise shall be performed on a 6 foot leash. Upon arriving at the honor exercise station the handler will command his dog to sit or down as directed. When the judge commands the next handler to begin the course with the order “forward” the honor handler will command dog to stay and leave the dog moving forward to the end of a 6 foot leash, turn and stand facing the dog. The handler will remain in that location until the honor steward advises they can return to the dog. The dog performing the honor exercise must remain in the designated sit or down position without moving from that location. The command “Exercise Finish” from the steward will be given when the dog and handler running the course cross the finish line. At that time the exercise is finished and the handler will return to their dog. The Honor Exercise must not be in the path of the dog and handler team that follows. To facilitate the honor for the first and last dogs in the class or section of the class, judges may use volunteer dogs or if the class or section is small enough they may use dogs from the class to honor the first and last dogs. A judge may use the last dog in a selected section of dogs or a small class to honor the first dog running the course. All dogs in the class or section of a class will be required to perform the honor exercise.

The dog must remain in either a sit or a down position to honor the next dog and handler’s entire course. This exercise must be performed on leash. For the Honor Exercise, the ring steward will monitor each team. **At the end of the exercise the steward will report the performance of the honor dog and handler team to the judge. The judge will indicate the score to be entered into the judge’s book for the honor team to the table steward. The table steward will then enter the score into the judge’s book.**

There will be no retry for the Honor Exercise

The Honor exercise is not to be considered a Stationary Exercise

Non-Regular Class Exercises

The Non-Regular exercises listed below can only be used in the Rally T Challenge Class

NR 1. Halt – Slow Forward From Sit – The **handler halts and the dog sits in heel position**. The **handler then commands the dog to heel and immediately moves forward at a slow pace**. This must be followed by normal pace, unless it is the last station on the course.
(Stationary Exercise)

NR 2. Halt – 90° Pivot Right – Forward – The **handler halts and the dog sits in heel position**. The **handler** commands the dog to heel, then **pivots 90° to the right and immediately moves forward**. (Stationary Exercise)

NR 3. Halt – 90° Pivot Left – Forward – The **handler halts and the dog sits in heel position**. The **handler** commands the dog to heel, then **pivots 90° to the left and immediately moves forward**. (Stationary Exercise)

NR 4. Leave Dog – 2 steps – Call to Heel – Forward – The **handler halts and the dog sits in heel position**. The handler commands the **dog to stay**. The **handler takes two steps forward** and pauses to **command the dog to heel as the handler immediately moves forward**. The **dog must catch up to the handler and resume heel position**. (Stationary Exercise)

NR 5. Call Front, 1 Step Back Diagonal Right, Front, Finish Right Forward – While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (**dog sits in front** and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. The **handler then takes 1 step diagonally backward and to the right**; the **dog moves with the handler and sits in the front position** in the new location. The next part of the exercise directs the handler to command the **dog to change from the front position to the handler's right, around behind the handler** and toward heel position. As the dog clears the handler's path, the **handler moves forward before the dog has completely returned to heel position**. The **dog does not sit before moving forward** in heel position with the handler.

NR 6. Call Front – 1 Step Back Diagonal Left – Front, Finish Left Forward – While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (**dog sits in front** and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and

moves to sit in the front position. The **handler then takes one step diagonally backward and to the left**; the **dog moves with the handler and sits in the front position** in the new location. The next part of the exercise directs the handler to command the **dog to change from the front position to the handler's left** and moving toward heel position. As the dog clears the handler's path, the **handler moves forward before the dog has completely returned to heel position**. The **dog does not sit** before moving forward in heel position with the handler.

NR 7. Double Left About Turn – While moving with the dog in heel position, the **handler makes an about turn to the left**, while at the same time, **the dog must move around the handler to the right** and into heel position. The handler may take one or two steps forward before **performing the exercise a second time**. The handler will end up turning 360° to the left as the dog turns 360° to the right around the handler. The dog does not sit at any time during this exercise.

INTRODUCTION TO RALLY STEWARDING

Rally classes are planned in conjunction with obedience trials. Planning an obedience trial involves many months of preparation by an obedience trial committee. The tasks are varied and demanding, and include, but are not limited to: selecting judges, preparing a premium list, compiling a mailing list, soliciting trophies, preparing or obtaining equipment, making luncheon arrangements, securing admission tickets, and printing a catalog.

One essential element that is often neglected or treated lightly is the selection and training of stewards. Rally is held in conjunction with obedience; stewards will be needed who have been specifically trained to assist with Rally. A steward who is not familiar with Rally procedures will require time consuming instructions from the judge and can severely slow down the entire judging procedure. To ensure the smooth operation of a Rally ring, clubs should provide a training session for stewards. Experienced stewards or judges can lead the training session.

A person may both steward for and show under the same judge, with the exception of the Table steward who may not show and steward in the same class. Stewarding functions in the Rally ring are broken down into four general categories: Gate steward, Table steward, Ring steward, and Time steward. For the Excellent Class, an Honor steward is also needed. In Rally Novice and Rally Advanced, the club will provide a minimum of three stewards, as one person can serve as both the Ring steward and the Time steward. In the Rally Excellent Classes, the Ring steward will also monitor and record the score for the Honoring dog. The Time steward will monitor and report each dog's time to the Table steward.

It is essential that all stewards be at ringside at least **45** minutes prior to the scheduled start of judging to receive any specific instructions from the judge and to assist in setting up the Rally ring as directed by the judge.

Stewards are reminded that Judges are solely responsible for the ring until their assignments are completed. Stewards are provided to assist but may act only on the judge's instructions. Stewards must not give information to owners and handlers expect when the judge asks them to do so.

CHAPTER 1

THE GATE STEWARD

The gate steward should report to their assigned ring at least 45 minutes prior to the scheduled judging time for class.

The primary responsibility of the Gate steward:

- **Distribute armbands**
- **Check to ensure that the armband number given to the exhibitor corresponds to the dog's name and number in the catalog.**
- **For Advanced and Excellent verify the jump height is listed correctly for each dog.**
- **Direct any request for special consideration to be judged out of order due to conflicts to the judge. The steward should report any absences to the judge and Table steward.**
- **See that the jump height is correctly set by the Ring steward for each dog in the Advanced and Excellent Classes before he enters the ring.**
- **Dogs must be judged in catalog order to the extent it is practical to do so without holding up judging.**
- **Ensure handlers and dogs do not enter the ring until the judge so indicates.**
- **Ensure that the next dog to be judged is immediately available. As soon as the judge begins judging the dog in the ring, the steward calls the next dog and ensures that the handler is ringside.**
- **If the next dog is not available, the steward should not hesitate to call the next dog in order.**
- **As needed ensure that the leash is returned to the handler as the dog and handler complete the course, and that the dog is on lead when the team leaves the ring.**
- **The Gate steward will be responsible for other duties as assigned by the judge.**
- **Be aware of any problems with the dogs on course and be ready to follow instructions given by the judge.**

CHAPTER 2

THE TABLE STEWARD

The table steward should report to their assigned ring at least 45 minutes prior to the scheduled judging time for class. The extent to which a judge uses the services of a Table steward varies greatly. The steward must receive specific instructions from the judge as to what will be required.

Judges must use worksheets to communicate with the Table steward. The judge may ask the Table steward to prepare and have the worksheet ready for the next dog.

The Table steward must be aware that any and all class changes of dogs in Rally can only be made by the superintendent or the trial secretary. No additions or corrections to the judges' book are allowed by any other person.

The Table steward should ensure that:

- **The class, proper armband number, and breed of dog are entered correctly on the work sheet.**
- **The scores on the work sheet have been added correctly.**
- **Scores from the work sheets and the times have been correctly transferred to the judge's book; and, after doing so they have initialed the judge's work sheet.**
- **Inform the judge of any error on the work sheet, and after being corrected by the judge, the score and time of the dog are entered into the judge's book correctly.**
- **Time is listed in the judge's book as minutes, seconds and hundredths.**
- **Post for each dog at or near ringside when each dog finishes the course.**
- **The judges' work sheets are not displayed or exhibited to any other person at the event, unless specifically directed to do so by the judge.**
- **All trophies and ribbons are available at the conclusion of each class.**

CHAPTER 3

THE RING STEWARD

It is particularly important for the Ring steward to report to the ring at least 45 minutes prior to judging. Each judge in Rally will have at least one ring steward.

The Ring steward is to be available to:

- **Assist in setting up the Rally courses initially and from class to class as needed.**
- **Make sure that jumps in the Rally Advanced and Excellent Classes are set at the correct height for each dog entered in the classes.**
- **Assist in the posting of unofficial scores if needed by the Rally Table steward.**
- **Assist with dog leash in the Rally Advanced and Excellent Classes. Make sure that the leash is returned to the handler and that the dog is on leash before leaving the Advanced or Excellent Class ring.**
- **The Ring steward will be responsible for other duties as assigned by the judge.**
- **Be aware of any problems with the dogs on the course and be ready to follow instructions given by the judge.**

CHAPTER 4

THE HONOR STEWARD

It is particularly important for the Honor steward to report to the ring at least 45 minutes prior to judging. The Honor steward will closely monitor the honoring dog in Rally Excellent. The judge will determine where each dog and handler will be stationed according to *Rally Regulations*; Chapter 3, Section 4 and as described in exercise number 50.

The Honor steward will be responsible for:

- **The Honor steward should be positioned as directed by the judge, in such a way as not to interfere with the performance of the dog on the Honor Exercises and the dog running the course.**
- **Make sure that the judge's directions to the steward and how the Honor Exercise is to be performed are followed.**
- **The Honor steward should not allow any outside distractions to hinder his observations of the handler and dog performing the Honor Exercise; and, should be in a position to observe the judge at all times as well as the dog working the course.**
- **Report to the judge any problems of the dog and handler performing the Honor Exercise.**

CHAPTER 5

THE TIME STEWARD

It is particularly important for the Time steward to report to the ring at least 45 minutes prior to judging. This will allow you to become familiar with the course layout/design, and the timing equipment to be used. The correct timing of a dog is important to Rally events and exhibitors. If two or more dogs in a class earn the same score, the tie is broken by time.

The Time steward has the responsibility to make sure:

- **He is in a position or place as specified by the judge prior to the running of each dog on the course.**
- **That the timing of a run starts when the judge says “Forward”, and the time of the run ends when both the dog and handler cross/pass the Finish line.**
- **That the time of each dog is immediately reported to the Table steward after each dog completes the course.**
- **That the time reported is in minutes, seconds and hundreds.**

If there is a malfunction in the timing device when a dog is running a course, the Timing steward will report the malfunction to the judge and the Table steward immediately after the dog and handler running the course has crossed the Finish stations.

CHAPTER 6

THE CLASSES

NOVICE

In the Novice Class, exercises are performed on leash and there are no jumps. The judge will give the order for the handler to begin the course. The **Ring and Gate** steward should remain outside the ring but stay alert to any possible problems, and be ready to follow whatever instructions the judge may give.

ADVANCED AND EXCELLENT

When issuing an armband in the Advanced and Excellent Rally Classes, the **Table steward or Gate** steward should check the catalog to verify the height and distance the dog jumps.

When a dog and handler enter the ring for the Advanced or Excellent Classes, the Gate or Ring steward should also take the leash from the handler. When the dog has finished running the course the Gate or Ring steward should return the leash to the handler and ensure that the dog is on leash before it leaves the ring.

It is essential that the Ring **or other** stewards **assigned to set jumps for competition** have a tape measure, steel rule **or folding ruler** to ensure accuracy in setting the broad jump.

Stewards must arrange jumps quickly and accurately to ensure a minimal loss or waste of judging time.

THE JUMPS

The Gate and /or Ring steward will confirm with the handler the height the dog jumps. Rally Advanced and Excellent Classes will be run in jump height order, unless prior arrangements have been made by a handler with the judge to run a dog out of order. It is essential that Ring stewards be familiar with *Rally Regulations* in order to set the jumps correctly **when jump changes are required.**

HIGH JUMP AND/OR BAR JUMP

The jump height requirements are as follows:

Height of Dog at Withers	Height to be Jumped
Less than 8 inches	4 inches
8 inches to less than 15 inches	8 inches
15 inches to less than 20 inches	12 inches
20 inches and over	16 inches

Broad Jump – In the ring, Broad Jump hurdles will be arranged in order of size from smallest to largest. They will be evenly spaced, covering a distance equal to twice the height of the High Jump set for each dog. Three boards will be used for a jump of 32 inches, two boards for a jump of 16 or 24 inches, and one board for a jump of 8 inches. When decreasing the number of boards in the jump, the highest hurdle will be removed first.

RALLY NON-REGULAR CLASSES

RALLY PAIRS: Rally Pairs Class consist of competition by handlers working two dogs at one time through a Rally course at a level selected to be offered by the event giving club. Scores will be based on a possible of 200 points, with ties being broken by time.

Class levels, which can be offered by the event giving club, will be Rally Novice, Rally Advanced and/or Rally Excellent, excluding jumps. Clubs may offer one or all levels at events. A club may offer Non-Regular Rally Excellent without having to offer any other level as a non-regular class.

Scoring – all stations will be counted with a point value. The maximum point value, which can be deducted at any one station, will be 10 points per dog. (20 total points) There will not be any NQ's awarded for a performance. It is possible for a team to receive a negative score. All other Rally rules and regulations will apply for each class level offered as a non-regular class.

Suggested judging rate of 12 teams per hour.

RALLY T CHALLENGE: The Non-Regular Rally T Challenge class will be based on the *Rally Regulations* for the Rally Advanced Class. Scores will be based on a possible 200 points. All currently approved stations for the Rally Advanced Class includes Novice Class Stations may be used in addition to the Rally T Challenge exercises listed in the approved station booklet. In addition to the new exercises, which can be used, a maximum time limit will be set (See Course Time).

Rally T Challenge Scoring - All stations will have a maximum value of 10 points per station. There will not be any NQ's for a dog's performance; all dogs will be pointed. It is possible for a dog to receive a negative score. Ties will be broken by time.

Time Points – A dog that runs past the maximum course time limit (See Course Time) will have 1 additional point deducted from its final score for each full second the dog runs over the course time limit. Dogs whose time is less than the maximum course time limit (See Course Time) will be awarded 1 point for each second under the course time limit. **COURSE TIME** - Time limits to be set by judge. Judges will walk their courses at a normal pace from start to finish. Each walk through will be timed. The course time will be the average of the three walk throughs by the judge, plus 5 seconds for each Stationary exercise in the course. The average will be rounded up to the next full second. This course time will not be posted or announced to the participants until the end of the class. Scores for this class will not be posted until the end of the class.

Walk Through - Each handler in the class will be given a chance to walk the course one (1) time before the class starts. For the walk through exhibitors will be lined up before the class begins and allowed to walk the course from start to finish, walking in a single file line from station to station from start to finish. Handlers must walk single file without practicing any station and must immediately leave the ring upon passing the Finish sign. Handlers observed practicing any station along the walk through will be assessed a 5 point handler error if observed by the judge prior to the start of the class.

Suggested judging rate of 15 dogs per hour.

RALLY T CHALLENGE TEAM COMPETITION This class may be offered as a team competition. The course time will be multiplied by the number of dogs defined as a team by the event giving club. Team time will run continuous from the start of the first dog until the finish of the last dog on the team. The maximum perfect score will be the number of dogs allowed for each team multiplied by 200 points.

Suggested judging rate of 4 teams per hour.

RALLY TEAM COMPETITION: For the Rally Non-Regular team competition, any one of the regular Rally class levels may be offered for the team competition. Teams will consist of 4 handlers, with a total possible score of 800 points for each team.

All team members will run the course individually, with the team time running continuously. Time will start when the judge gives the first member of the team the forward command from the Start sign. The subsequent dog for each team starts when the previous handler for the team passes the Finish sign without an additional command of “Forward” by the judge. Timing for each team will begin when the judge commands the first handler in the team to begin with the command “Forward” and will be stopped when the fourth handler from the team passes the Finish line.

Scoring – all stations will be counted with a point value. The maximum point value, which can be deducted at any one station, will be 10 points. It is possible for a team to receive a negative score.

Suggested judging rate of 4 teams per hour.

Rally Plus – (Old Rally Transition Class)

All exercises and performance in the class will be judged based on the AKC *Obedience Regulations* a perfect score would be 200 points. As with other non-regular classes, a maximum of 10 points will be assessed to each station. It is possible for a dog and handler team to receive a negative score in this class.

Heeling: - No point value assigned – points deducted based on the performance of the dog and handler – per *Obedience Regulations*. Dogs will be judged on heeling from start to finish.

The heeling course for the first part of the class shall be 180 to 200 linear feet of heeling. The heeling pattern will include additional heeling once the dog and handler return to the Rally portion of the class moving from station to station after the first Halt and Sit.

The dog and handler begin at the “Start” sign off lead, with the judge’s command of “Forward”.

Up until the a cone or other marker placed 3 feet after the first turn, the handler may talk to his dog giving encouragement or additional commands to heel.

After the team passed the cone or other marker placed after the first turn, the handler cannot talk to his dog again during the heeling portion without being scored penalties.

The team will be required to perform the Normal, Fast, and Slow as in the Novice Obedience class. In addition, the dog and handler will be required to perform all of the turns on the course based on Rally turns, 90°, 270°, 360°, about, left about, and right about.

The quiet portion of the heeling exercise ends at the first Halt Sit station (sign #3 – Halt – Sit). (Again, this first part of the class will be 180 to 200 linear feet of heeling.)

Return to regular Rally portion of the class with a mandatory Stand for Exam.

Upon completing the first Halt Sit station, the handler will resume the rest of the Rally course, and be allowed to talk to his dog. The course will contain 20 to 25 stations, one of which would be a required Halt-Stand-Walk-Around-Dog station, (sign #36). This station would be modified for this class to require a pause with the handler standing approximately 3 to 6 feet in front of the dog, while the judge approaches and touches the dog's, head, body and hindquarters with the palm of one hand as required in the Novice Obedience Stand for Examination. Once the judge has touched the hindquarter portion of the dog and starts to step back, the handler will circle the dog returning to the heel position and then continue on the Rally course.

The total course should include 20 to 25 total stations, 7 of which have to be stationary exercises after the first part of the heeling exercise.

Recall

After passing the Finish sign, timing on the dog has stopped. The handler will then move his dog to a designated area at one end of the ring where the handler will position his dog in a Sitting position facing the opposite end of the ring. Without any order from the judge, the handler will then give his dog a command to "Stay" and leave his dog as in the Novice Recall Exercise. The handler once reaching the far end of the ring will turn and face his dog and give a command to "Come". (The handler will be allowed two commands to call his dog without any substantial penalty being assessed. If the handler gives, more than two commands to Come, a substantial penalty or higher may be given.) **The maximum point value for this station is 10 points.**

After the dog has sat in front, the handler will then Finish his dog without any commands from the judge. If the dog does not sit in front of the handler after being called, penalty points may be assigned. Handlers may command and/or signal their dogs to sit in front. If a dog fails to Finish after being commanded (multiple commands and/or signals may be used), substantial points may be assigned by the judge. Judges may deduct points for slow response of the dog during the Recall portion.

Honor – 1 Minute Sit and Stay

Once the dog has completed the Recall portion of the class, the handler will then move to a designated Honor Exercise area. This portion of the class will require an Honor steward who will time the dog and handler for a 1 minute Sit Stay exercise. This exercise will be off leash and will be performed while the next dog in the class is running the course. The handler for this exercise will leave his dog in a Sit Stay at the Honor area when the judge commands the next dog in the class to start with the "Forward" command. The Honor handler will command his dog to stay and leave his dog to a marked point about 15 feet away from his dog, and will then turn and face his dog. The Honor steward upon hearing the command "Forward" from the judge will time the dog for a period of 1 minute. The handler may give commands to his dog using normal speech tones and commands without penalty. Once the 1 minute time has elapsed, the handler will be advised to return to his dog. Upon returning to his dog, the handler will leash the dog and leave the ring area. **The maximum point value for this station is 10 points.**

Suggested judging rate of 12 dogs per hour.