

# Rally Regulations

Effective April 1, 2012



AMERICAN  
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# AKC RALLY® REGULATIONS

## EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010

### Table of Contents

AKC Rally Introduction . . . . .	126
<b>CHAPTER 1 General Regulations . . . . .</b>	<b>127</b>
Application to Hold a Rally Trial . . . . .	127
Premium Lists and Catalogs . . . . .	127
Catalog Order . . . . .	127
Judging Schedule. . . . .	127
Recording Fees . . . . .	127
<b>CHAPTER 2 General Procedures. . . . .</b>	<b>128</b>
Space Requirements . . . . .	128
Entry Limits. . . . .	128
Armbands . . . . .	128
Signs and Holders . . . . .	128
Placements of Signs . . . . .	128
Location of Performance in Relation to Signs . . . . .	128
Familiarization Time. . . . .	129
Judging . . . . .	129
Qualifying Scores and General Scoring . . . . .	129
Timing. . . . .	130
Rally Ribbons . . . . .	131
Rally Match Ribbons. . . . .	132
Ribbons and Prizes . . . . .	132
<b>CHAPTER 3 Classes and Titles . . . . .</b>	<b>133</b>
Rally Novice Class . . . . .	133
Rally Advanced Class. . . . .	133
Jumps. . . . .	134
Jump Heights. . . . .	134
Rally Excellent Class . . . . .	135
<u>Sit Stay Exercise</u> . . . . .	135
The Rally Advanced Excellent Title. . . . .	136
<b>CHAPTER 4 Non-Regular Classes. . . . .</b>	<b>137</b>
Rally Pairs Class . . . . .	137
Rally Team Competition. . . . .	137
<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS. . . . .</b>	<b>138</b>

## AKC RALLY® INTRODUCTION

The *Obedience Regulations* and *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, where applicable, shall govern the conduct of AKC 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 a brisk 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. The dog and handler team 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 AKC 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. Unless otherwise specified in these regulations, handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and or signals using one or both arms, clap their hands, pat their legs or use any verbal means of encouragement. The handler must move in a natural manner. The handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands, intimidating signals, touching the dog (unless otherwise specified by these regulations) or any physical corrections will be penalized. AKC Rally is a companion sport to AKC 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

**(Please note: All regulations affecting the competition of dogs listed with AKC Canine Partners become effective April 1, 2010.)**

**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 trial application with appropriate fee must be submitted at least 18 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. Any club eligible to hold all-breed rally trials may open their trial to dogs listed with AKC Canine Partners at their option. 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 every 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 dog's jump 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 up to 20 dogs per hour. A and B classes at the same title level may be combined for judging if the total combined entry for both classes is not more than 20 dogs.

**Section 5. Recording Fees.** At every licensed or member club rally trial, a recording fee of \$3.50 shall be required for the first entry of each dog and a recording fee of \$3.00 shall be required for each additional entry of the same dog. A marked catalog and all recording fees must be sent to AKC so as to reach its office within seven days after the close of the trial.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **GENERAL PROCEDURES**

**Section 1. Space Requirements.** The ring sizes for rally shall be 40 by 50 feet to 50 by 60 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 up to 20 entries per hour, and no judge will 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. When entries are limited, a club must designate an RAE class in the premium list. Dogs entered in this RAE class would be entered in both Advanced B and Excellent B, and the combined entry fee for these two classes must be paid. If due to entry limits an exhibitor cannot be entered in both the Advanced B and Excellent B classes the RAE class will be considered closed and any subsequent entries for this class will be unacceptable in their entirety.

**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 8½ by 11 inches and a maximum of 11 by 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 and the Call to Heel marker. All sign holders or signs (not including those for Start, Finish, and the Call to Heel marker) 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, 17, 18, 19, 103 and 299) 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 team 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.

**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 sidestep to the right, the sign shall be placed in the initial path of the team (handler and dog), thus requiring the team to make a sufficient size sidestep to the right in order to pass the sign on the right.

**Section 7. Familiarization Time.** The course for each class will be posted at the ring when the judge arrives. A 10-minute walkthrough 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 walkthrough 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 walkthrough 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. Copies of the course may be given to exhibitors prior to the first class if available. Walkthrough 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.

**Section 8. Judging.** The judge's 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 unless otherwise stated in these regulations. 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 on a scale from 1 to 10:

**Minor Deduction (1-2 points)** 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

**Minor to Substantial Deduction (1-10 points)** for each of the following:

- Repeat of a station—only one (1) retry of each station will be allowed for all class levels. Repeat of a station is an automatic 3 point deduction.

- Pylon/post knocked over on Figure Eight, Spiral and Serpentine
- Lack of control
- Lack of teamwork
- Lack of briskness
- Handler error\*
- Loud command or intimidating signal
- Excessive barking
- Hitting the jump
- Patting/clapping in Excellent – per occurrence

**Substantial Deduction (6-10 points)** for each of the following:

- Incorrectly performed station\*\* (Automatic 10 point deduction)
- Failure to complete the Sit Stay Exercise (IP)–No retries allowed
- Failure of dog to go over the jump in the proper direction (IP) – no retries allowed
- Luring /pleading with the dog
- Lack of natural manner

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

- Minimum requirements not met
- Dog unmanageable or uncontrolled barking
- Consistently tight lead
- Dog that eliminates while in the ring for judging
- Handler error\*
- Station not attempted by handler\*\*\*
- Non-qualifying errors may not be re-tried

**\*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 their 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 principal parts of the station on the first 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 second attempt.

**\*\*\*A station will be considered Not Attempted if:** (refer to glossary)

- Handler completely passes the station without noticing the station
- Handler approaches sign but chooses not to do the exercise
- Handler approaches sign but does not begin the exercise described on the sign

**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 tied 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 dogs will repeat the course and will be scored and timed again. The original scores will not be changed, but a plus (+) will be added after the score of the dog winning the run-off. 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 involving a dog that 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 rerun. If the dog’s score is less than the original score from the first run, the team will be placed below its competitor 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 its original score and accept the loss of the run-off.

**Section 11. Rally Ribbons.** At licensed or member rally trials, the following colors must be used for prize ribbons or rosettes in all regular classes:

- First Prize – Blue
- Second Prize – Red
- Third Prize – Yellow
- Fourth Prize – White
- Qualifying Prize – Dark Green

If the Highest Combined award is offered the colors are:

Highest Combined Score in Advance B and Excellent B – Blue and Green

The following colors shall be used in all non-regular classes:

- First Prize – Rose
- Second Prize – Brown
- Third Prize – Light Green
- Fourth Prize – Gray

Each prize ribbon or rosette in all regular classes will be at least 2 inches wide and a minimum of 8 inches long, and will bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of the AKC, the words “Rally Trial,” the name of the placement, and the name of the trial-giving club. The date of the trial and the name of the city or town where the trial is held must appear on the face, back tab or on a label attached to the specific ribbon.

Qualifying ribbons or rosettes and ribbons or rosettes in all non-regular classes will be at least 2 inches wide and a minimum of 8 inches long, and will bear on the face a facsimile of the seal of the AKC, the words “Rally Trial,” the name of the placement and the name of the trial-giving club. The date of the trial and the name of the city or town where the trial is held may be on the face of the ribbons.

**Section 12. Rally Match Ribbons.** If ribbons are given at sanctioned rally matches, they will be of the following colors and will have the words “Rally Match” printed on them but may be of any design or size.

First Prize – Rose

Second Prize – Brown

Third Prize – Light Green

Fourth Prize – Gray

Qualifying Prize – Green with Pink edges

**Section 13. Ribbons and Prizes.** Ribbons for the four official placements and all prizes offered for competition within a single regular class at licensed or member trials or at sanctioned matches will be awarded only to dogs that earn qualifying scores. Qualifying scores will not be required for the awarding of ribbons and prizes in the non-regular classes. Awards for the four placements in these classes will be based solely on the number of points earned. There are no awards for competition between classes. Highest Combined Score in Advanced B and Excellent B classes may be offered at the option of the club. Prizes at a licensed or member rally trial must be offered to be won outright. However, a prize requiring three wins by the same owner for permanent possession, but not necessarily with the same dog, may be offered for the dog with the highest qualifying score in one of the regular classes. Prizes offered only to members of certain clubs or organizations will not be approved for publication in premium lists. If an award in any of the regular classes is cancelled, the next highest scoring dog will receive that award. If there is no dog to move up, the award will be void. If the AKC cancels a dog’s win, the dog’s owner must return all ribbons and prizes to the trial-giving club within 10 days of receiving the AKC’s cancellation notice.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **CLASSES AND TITLES**

**(Please note: All regulations affecting the competition of dogs listed with AKC Canine Partners become effective April 1, 2010.)**

**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 to 15 stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of five 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, and all dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. Rally Advanced A and Advanced B must have between 12 to 17 stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary exercises. Courses shall have a minimum of three Advanced level stations plus one 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 the dog 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 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 10 inches. This jump will be constructed so the maximum height does not exceed 4 inches, with a half-inch tolerance. This can be a separate board or support system placed between the two standard uprights. The bar or high jump board used to create this 4-inch jump height can be supported by a means other than the two 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, 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** will consist 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.

**Send to Jump. (Sign #210)** The sign for this station will be placed at least 10 feet before the jump. The sign for this station and the one after it will be set so that the handler maintains at least a 3 foot path away from the jump while the dog performs the jump and returns to the handler. The set up and performance of this sign should not be confused with sign #103 \*Send Over Jump-Handler Passes By.

**Note: After sending the dog to the jump the handler may pause as needed, but must not pass the jump until the dog has returned to the heel position.**

**Section 2B. Jump Heights.** The dog's jump height shall be given on

the entry form. Entries will be arranged according to the jump height of the dogs, from either high to low or low to high.

<u>Height of dog at withers</u>	<u>Height to be jumped</u>
Less than 10 inches	4 inches
10 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. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. Rally Excellent must have between 15 to 20 stations (Start, Finish and Call to Heel marker not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary exercises. Courses shall have a minimum of two Advanced level stations and a minimum of three Excellent level stations, plus the two required jumps and the Sit Stay 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 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. 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. Sit Stay Exercise. (Sign #298)** The judge will designate the area or person in charge of the leash prior to the excellent walk-through. All exhibitors must be informed of where they need to go to

retrieve their leash or from whom during the walkthrough. Immediately following the Finish Sign the handler and dog will go to the Sit Stay sign. The handler will sit the dog, and command and/or signal the dog to sit stay. The handler will then walk forward at least fifteen (15) feet, retrieve the leash from any of the following; gate steward, judge or designated area next to the ring exit, and return to heel position by walking around and behind the dog. The judge will order “Exercise Finished” at which time the judging of the Sit Stay Exercise will be complete. The handler will then attach the leash and exit the ring. The Sit Stay Exercise is not considered to be 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. To earn a Rally Advanced Excellent title, the dog must have received qualifying scores in both Advanced B and Excellent B at 10 separate licensed or member rally trials. 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.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **NON-REGULAR CLASSES**

**(Please note: All regulations affecting the competition of dogs listed with AKC Canine Partners become effective April 1, 2010.)**

**Section 1. Rally Pairs Class.** Rally Pairs class consists of competition by one handler working two dogs at one time through a rally course at a level selected and offered by the event-giving club. Scores will be based on a possible 200 points, with ties being broken by time. Class levels that 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 that can be deducted at any one station will be 10 points per dog (20 total points). There will not be any NQs 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 is 12 pairs per hour.

**Section 2. Rally Team Competition.** For the non-regular Rally Team Competition, any of the regular rally class levels may be offered. The Rally Team Competition will be for teams of any four dogs that are eligible under these regulations. Five dogs may be entered, one to be considered an alternate for which no entry fee will be required, however the same four dogs will perform all of the exercises. No dog may be entered on more than one team. There is a total possible score of 400 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 stop when the fourth handler from the team passes the finish line. If jumps are required, they will be based on the height of the smallest dog on each competing team.

**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 is four teams per hour.

## Glossary of Terms

**Brisk, briskly** — keenly alive, alert, energetic

### Deductions:

Minor deduction – 1 to 2 points

Minor to Substantial deduction – 1 to 10 points

Substantial deduction – 6 to 10 points

- Re-tries of a station are an automatic 3 point deduction
- Incorrectly Performed stations are an automatic 10 point deduction

**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 how slight or severe.

**Luring** – the appearance of having a reward in hand. e.g. holding the thumb and first two fingers together as if holding a treat. No treat need be present.

**Natural Manner** – not artificial, free of affectation; what is customarily expected in the home or public places.

**Pause** – a complete stop of forward motion by the handler.

**Pivot** – turning in the circle occupied by the handler before they started the turn; a turn in place.

**Pleading** – repeated urgent commands and/or signals to elicit the proper behavior from the dog while the dog remains unresponsive to handler's commands and/or signals.

**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** – a station skipped/missed by the handler before attempting the next station.

For additional terms, refer to the glossary in the *Obedience Regulations*.



# Rally Judges' Guidelines



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# AKC RALLY® JUDGES' GUIDELINES

## Table of Contents

<b><u>CHAPTER 1 Rally Judges' Guidelines</u></b> .....	<b>143</b>
Judging Assignments.....	143
Knowledge.....	143
Rally Judges' Education.....	144
<b><u>CHAPTER 2 Course Design</u></b> .....	<b>145</b>
Course Design and Setting the Course .....	145
<b><u>CHAPTER 3 Preparation for Judging</u></b> .....	<b>146</b>
Ring and Equipment.....	146
Catalog Order.....	146
Judging Schedule.....	146
<b><u>CHAPTER 4 Judging the Dogs</u></b> .....	<b>147</b>
Judging the Dogs.....	147
Philosophy of Scoring.....	147
<b><u>CHAPTER 5 The Judges Book</u></b> .....	<b>148</b>
Check the Book.....	148
When Judging is Finished.....	148
Judge's Score Sheets and Records.....	148
Explanation and Errors.....	148

## RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES PURPOSE

### PURPOSE

Rally trials are a sport, and all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship both in and out of the ring. Rally trials demonstrate the dog's ability to follow specified routines in the Rally ring and emphasize the exhibition of teamwork between handler and dog. All contestants in a class are required to perform the same exercises in substantially the same way so that the relative quality of the various performances may be compared and scored. The basic objective of Rally trials, however, is to recognize dogs that have been trained to behave in the home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs in a manner that will reflect credit on the sport of Rally at all times and under all conditions. The performance of dog and handler in the ring must meet the requirements of the *Rally Regulations*. It is also essential that the dog demonstrate willingness and enjoyment while it is working and that the handler and dog appear to be working together as a team.

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES**

#### **YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A JUDGE**

Judges must understand their responsibilities to the sport.

**Responsibility to Exhibitors.** Each exhibitor has paid an entry fee for the purpose of competing and having their 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, it is appropriate for the judge to discuss an individual dog's performance with the handler, if the handler requests this information. However, a judge should never continue a conversation with an angry or aggressive person.

**Responsibility to Spectators.** Spectators form their opinion of the sport through seeing the actions of the judge, the handler and the dog. Care must be taken to avoid any action that might reflect poorly on the sport. Judges should work to maintain spectator appeal in the sport while keeping foremost in mind the welfare and convenience of the exhibitor and the dog.

**Section 1. Judging Assignments/Assignment Restrictions.** A judge will not be approved to judge the same rally class at all-breed events within 30 days and 100 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.
- A judge may accept assignments to judge the same classes at 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 or group rally trials are not considered to be in conflict unless the two specialties or group rally trials are for the same breed or group. Breed specialty rally assignments or group shows are not in conflict with an assignment to judge the same class(es) at an all-breed rally trial. A judge's assignment or combined assignments for any day shall not exceed eight hours.

**Section 2. Knowledge.** The *Rally Regulations* are the basic guide to judging; however, not every possible fault or error is covered, only the more common and serious ones. The *Rally Regulations* clearly define the exercises 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. The *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*. 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 the 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.

**Section 3. Rally Judges' Education.** Studying the *Rally Regulations*, exhibiting and attending AKC Companion Events seminars increase a judge's knowledge. Putting the acquired knowledge into practice permits a judge to apply the principals of sound judging contained in the *Rally Regulations*. Rally judges must attend at least one obedience and one rally judges' seminar presented by AKC staff in every three-year period and will be ineligible to accept assignments if this requirement is not met. A person who is not currently suspended from the privileges of the AKC and who has trained and exhibited a dog to the Rally Excellent title (RE) and a Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) title may be approved to judge the rally non-regular classes.

## CHAPTER 2

### RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES

#### COURSE DESIGN

**Section 1. Course Design and Setting the Course.** A Rally Course should be designed to be fun, interesting and enjoyable for the exhibitor, dog and spectators. Courses should provide sufficient challenge without being overly complicated and designed to be completed by the average team in less than two minutes. This may vary slightly depending on the level. When designing courses, remember AKC Rally is a skill building class for all other AKC events and should provide the dog and handler the ability to develop and master a variety of skills.

Control and teamwork is best evaluated with courses that flow. The Rally Judge should consider the dog and handler's path when designing and setting the course. Grouping stationary exercises together causes a course to be choppy and tight while using multiple circular turns in the same direction may cause dizziness. Stations requiring specific angles of performance must be used to allow those angles to be executed correctly. Exercises using the pylons may share one or more pylons except for the Offset Figure 8. All stations with a "Fast" or "Slow" must be followed by a "Normal" except the "Slow" may be used as the last station.

Adequate space must be allowed for all sizes of dogs to perform the stations properly inside the ring including the Start, Finish and Sit Stay signs. The Sit Stay Exercise is not to be considered one of the required stationary course stations and must not be in the path of the course. Separate entrance and exit gates allow for better traffic flow and time management.

The first course of the day should be nested with multiple signs per holder (if possible) for the following class levels to allow for an efficient and easy course change between levels. If a course needs to be modified note the changes on the course posted and the one included in the Judge's Book.

Course Design is of significant importance to the sport. Judges should not use the same course in the same area over and over again. Courses should be laid out in a clear and straightforward manner in order that a handler who misses the walk through has a reasonable chance of qualifying by following the numbered stations.

### CHAPTER 3

## RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES

### PREPARATION FOR JUDGING

**BE ON TIME.** The judge must arrive a minimum of 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start of judging, unless a prior judging assignment conflicts. Upon arrival, the judge will post the course(s) outside the ring.

**Section 1. Ring and Equipment** – 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 the *Rally Regulations*, Chapter 3, Section 2A

**Section 2. 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 will arrange entries according to the dog's jump height, 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. However, judges are not required to wait for dogs.

**Section 3. Judging Schedule.** The judging schedule will be based on the judging of up to 20 dogs per hour. Walkthroughs should be performed as outlined in the *Rally Regulations*, Chapter 2, Section 7, "Familiarization Time." Additionally, judges may take rest or meal breaks at their discretion. Unnecessary delays in judging should be avoided. If there are less than 5 hours of judging scheduled, a lunch break is not recommended.



## CHAPTER 4

### RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES

#### JUDGING THE DOGS

**Section 1. Judging the Dogs.** The judge has absolute control and unquestioned authority over all persons and dogs in the ring. With this authority comes the responsibility to be courteous and considerate. Be as systematic in your ring procedure from dog to dog as conditions permit. Judges position should be kept in mind when designing the course. Position is important for three reasons: first to properly evaluate the dog and handler, second to establish consistency from team to team and third efficient time management. While there is no one perfect position, some positions are better than others. All dogs should be viewed from the same relative position on the course. Fronts and finishes are best judged from the front or from the side. When evaluating a “down,” the judge should be in position to see whether or not the dog has dropped completely. Handlers should expect and train for a reasonable amount of movement by the judge.

**Section 2. Philosophy of Scoring.** It is the judge's responsibility to qualify all the dogs that should qualify and to non-qualify all the dogs whose performances did not meet the minimum requirements. From the qualifying group of dogs, it is the judge's responsibility to place the top four dogs in order of their performance. The remainder of the qualifying dogs are ranked in order by their scores. Unofficial scores, but not times, shall be posted ringside after each dog has completed the final exercise. A judge should honor an exhibitor's request to be excused.

The sliding point scale is to assist judges in the scoring of each dog and handler team. Unless otherwise specified in the *Rally Regulations* scoring will be based on the minor to substantial deductions listed in Chapter 2, Section 9 of the *Rally Regulations* and any other applicable section found in the *Rally* or *Obedience Regulations* regulating performance and scoring. Each team should be scored on the following sliding scale while being judged:

***Note: As mentioned in the AKC Rally Introduction – Any faults in traditional AKC Obedience that would be evaluated and scored as a (1) one-point deduction or more should be scored the same in Rally... (There are no (1/2) half point deductions in Rally)***

**Minor deduction** – 1 to 2 points

**Minor to Substantial deduction** – 1 to 10 points

**Substantial deduction** – 6 to 10 points

- Re-tries of a station are an automatic 3 point deduction
- Incorrectly Performed (IP) stations are an automatic 10 point deduction

## CHAPTER 5

### RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES

#### THE JUDGES BOOK

**Section 1. Check the Book.** Prior to beginning the judging of each class, check each book to ensure any additions or corrections have been initialed by the trial secretary or superintendent.

**Section 2. When Judging is Finished.** 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. Once judging is finished, judges must first ensure their 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 that can be corrected immediately by the judge.

**Section 3. Judge's Score Sheets and Records.** Judges are not required to display or show exhibitors their individual worksheets. Judges will retain complete control of their records (copies of worksheets, copies of judge's books, etc.) for at least six months in case such records are required by the AKC in order to review the results of a particular class.

**Section 4. 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 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.

**Note: Excusals and Attack Situations-Judges should refer to the *Obedience Regulations* Chapter 1, Section 17 for information on the excusal of a dog or disqualification for attacking situations.**

**Rally Judge's Book**

Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_

Event # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Judge \_\_\_\_\_  
Maximum Score - 100 points

NOVICE A or B      ADVANCED A or B      EXCELLENT A or B

ARMBAND NUMBER	BREED OF DOG	TIME	POINTS LOST	FINAL SCORE

Armband #      1<sup>st</sup> place      2<sup>nd</sup> place      3<sup>rd</sup> place      4<sup>th</sup> place  
\_\_\_\_\_

Score:      \_\_\_\_\_

Time Started: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Finished: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Rally Sample Marked Judge's Book

Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_

Event # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Judge \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum Score – 100 points

NOVICE A or B

ADVANCED A or B

EXCELLENT A or B

ARMAND NUMBER	BREED OF DOG	TIME	POINTS LOST	FINAL SCORE
101	Australian Shepherd	1:53:31	-4	96
<del>102</del>	<del>Italian Greyhound</del>	Moved to	Advanced A	SB (initials of Secretary)
103	Schipperke	1:53:60	-10	90
104	Australian Shepherd	NQ	NQ	NQ
105	Pomeranian	1:36:29	-2	98
106	Basset Hound	1:41:47	-10	90
107	Australian Shepherd	2:05:70	-10	90
108	Golden Retriever	1:39:16	-5	95
109	Irish Water Spaniel	1:36:75	-5	95
110	Pomeranian	1:31:18	-2	98
111	Labrador Retriever	1:51:75	-10	90
112	Australian Shepherd	1:31:18	-2	98
113	Lhasa Apso	AB	AB	AB
114	Border Collie	1:35:04	-10	90
115	Golden Retriever	1:45:05	-7	93
116	Whippet			Excused - lame
117	Pug	1:33:73	-3	97
118	Labrador Retriever	1:54:14	-3	97
119	Border Collie	1:33:93	-10	90

	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	4 <sup>th</sup> Place
Armband #	<u>110 +</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>117</u>
Score	<u>98</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>97</u>

Time Started: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Finished: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Steward in Rally



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®

The Steward  
in Rally



# THE STEWARD IN RALLY

## Table of Contents

Introduction to Rally Stewarding .....	155
<b>CHAPTER 1</b> The Gate Steward.....	157
<b>CHAPTER 2</b> The Table Steward .....	157
<b>CHAPTER 3</b> The Ring Steward .....	158
<b>CHAPTER 4</b> The Time Steward.....	159
<b>CHAPTER 5</b> The Classes .....	159





## 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, 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 and stewards will be needed who have been specifically trained to assist with rally events. 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. 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. 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 except when the judge asks them to do so.



## **CHAPTER 1**

### **THE GATE STEWARD**

Gate stewards should report to their assigned ring at least 45 minutes prior to the scheduled judging time for the class.

The duties of gate stewards should include:

- Distributing armbands.
- Checking to ensure that the armband number given to the exhibitor corresponds to the dog's name and number in the catalog.
- Directing exhibitors who request to be judged out of order due to conflicts to the judge and reporting any absences to the judge and table steward.
- Assuring that the jump height is correctly set by the ring steward for each dog in the Advanced and Excellent classes before it enters the ring.
- Ensuring that dogs are judged in catalog order but not to the extent of holding up judging.
- Ensuring handlers and dogs do not enter the ring until the judge so indicates.
- Ensuring 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 gate steward should not hesitate to call the next dog in order.
- As needed, ensuring that the leash is returned to the handler as the dog and handler complete the course, and that the dog is on leash when the team leaves the ring.
- Being aware of any problems with the dogs on course and being ready to follow instructions given by the judge.
- For Advanced and Excellent, verifying that the jump height is listed correctly for each dog.
- Assisting with any other duties as assigned by the judge.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **THE TABLE STEWARD**

Table stewards should report to their assigned ring at least 45 minutes prior to the scheduled judging time for the 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 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. 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 judge's book are allowed by any other person.

The duties of table stewards should include:

- Correctly entering the class, proper armband number and breed of dog on the worksheet.
- Correctly adding the scores on the worksheet.
- Correctly transferring the scores from the worksheets and the times to the judge's book, and, after doing so, initialing the judge's worksheet.
- Informing the judge of any error on the worksheet, and after the judge corrects it, entering the score and time of the dog into the judge's book correctly.
- Listing the time in the judge's book as minutes, seconds and hundredths.
- Posting each dog's unofficial score at or near ringside after the dog finishes the course.
- Making sure the judge's worksheets are not displayed or exhibited to any other person at the event, unless specifically directed to do so by the judge.
- Making all trophies and ribbons available at the conclusion of each class.

### **CHAPTER 3**

#### **THE RING STEWARD**

Ring stewards should report to their assigned ring at least 45 minutes prior to the scheduled judging time for the class. Each judge in rally will have at least one ring steward.

The duties of ring stewards should include:

- Assisting in setting up the rally courses initially and from class to class as needed.
- Assisting in the posting of unofficial scores if needed by the rally table steward.
- Being aware of any problems with the dogs on the course and ready to follow instructions given by the judge.
- Making sure that jumps in the Rally Advanced and Excellent classes are set at the correct jump height for each dog entered in the classes.
- Assisting with the leash in the Rally Advanced and Excellent classes, making sure that the leash is returned to the handler and that the dog is on leash before leaving the ring.
- Performing any other duties as assigned by the judge.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **THE TIME STEWARD**

Time stewards should report to their assigned ring at least 45 minutes prior to the scheduled judging time for the class. This will allow them to become familiar with the course layout/design and the timing equipment. 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 duties of time stewards should include:

- Being stationed in a position or place as specified by the judge prior to the running of each dog on the course.
- Making sure 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 station.
- Immediately reporting the time to the table steward after each dog completes the course.
- Making sure that the time reported is in minutes, seconds and hundredths. 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 crosses the Finish station

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **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 stewards 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 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 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 have a tape measure, steel ruler 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 the *Rally Regulations* in order to set the jumps correctly in the event jump changes are required.

## HIGH JUMP AND/OR BAR JUMP

The jump height requirements are as follows:

<u>Height of dog at withers</u>	<u>Height to be jumped</u>
Less than 10 inches	4 inches
10 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.

# INDEX

<b>Rally Regulations Index</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Section</b>
Rally Introduction		
General Rally Regulations	1	
Advanced Rally A Class	3	2
Advanced Rally B Class	3	2
Advanced Rally Class	3	2
Application to Hold a Rally Trial	1	1
Armbands	2	3
Bar Jump	3	2A
Bar Jump Off-Set	3	2A
Broad Jump	3	2A
Catalog Order	1	3
Course Familiarization Time	2	7
Entry Limit	2	2
Excellent A Rally Class	3	3
Excellent B Rally Class	3	3
Excellent Rally Class	3	3
Familiarization Time	2	7
Four Inch Jump Description	3	2A
High Jump	3	2A
Judge's Orders-Judging	2	8
Judging-Judge's Orders	2	8
Judging Schedule	1	4
Jump Heights	3	2B
Jumps	3	2A
Jumps-4 Inch Jump Description	3	2A
Jumps-Bar Jump	3	2A
Jumps-Bar Jump Off-Set	3	2A
Jumps-Broad Jump	3	2A
Jumps-High Jump	3	2A
Location of Performance in		
Relation to Signs	2	6
Novice Rally A Class	3	1
Novice Rally B Class	3	1
Novice Rally Class	3	1
Placement of Signs	2	5
Premium List and Catalogs	1	2
Prizes-No Awards for Competition		
Between Classes	2	13
Prizes and Ribbons	2	13
Qualifying Scores and General Scoring	2	9
RAE Title	3	5
Rally Advanced A Class	3	2
Rally Advanced Class	3	2
Rally Advanced Excellent Title	3	5
Rally Advanced B Class	3	2

<b>Rally Regulations Index</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Section</b>
Rally Excellent A Class	3	3
Rally Excellent B Class	3	3
Rally Excellent Class	3	3
Rally Novice A Class	3	1
Rally Novice B Class	3	1
Rally Novice Class	3	1
Recording Fees	1	5
Ribbons-Licensed Events	2	11
Ribbons-Rally Matches	2	12
Ribbons and Prizes	2	13
Ring Size	2	1
Scoring-Qualifying Scores and General Scoring	2	9
Signs-Location and Performance	2	6
<u>Sit Stay Exercise</u>	3	4
Placement of Signs	2	5
Signs and Holders	2	4
Space Requirements	2	1
Tie Scores	2	10
Timing	2	10
Timing Malfunctions	2	10



## GLOSSARY OF RALLY TERMS

### RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES

<b><u>Rally Regulations Index</u></b>	<b><u>Chapter</u></b>	<b><u>Section</u></b>
Catalog Order	3	2
Explanations and Errors	5	4
Judging Assignments	1	1
Judging is Finished	5	2
Judging Requirements – Non-Regular Rally	1	3
Judging Requirements- Regular Classes Rally	1	3
Judging Schedule	3	3
Knowledge	1	2
Rally Judges' Education	1	3
Responsibility to Exhibitors	1	
Score Sheets and Records	5	3
When Judging is Finished	5	2

### THE STEWARD IN RALLY INDEX

Introduction	
CHAPTER 1 – The Gate Steward	1
CHAPTER 2 – The Table Steward	2
CHAPTER 3 – The Ring Steward	3
CHAPTER 4 – The Time Steward	4
CHAPTER 5 – The Classes	5
Novice	5
Advanced and Excellent	5
The Jumps	5
High Jump and/or Bar Jump	5
Broad Jump	5



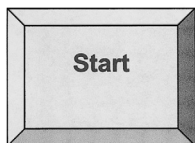
## RALLY SIGNS AND DESCRIPTIONS

Designated wording and symbols for rally signs – Judges may use duplicates of stations marked with an asterisk in designing their courses.

**The principal parts of the exercises are boldface and underlined.**

### THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES MAY BE USED IN ALL CLASS LEVELS

N, A, X- #1



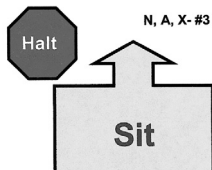
1. **START** – Indicates the beginning of the course. Dog does not have to be sitting at start.

N, A, X- #2



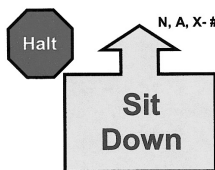
2. **FINISH** – Indicates the end of the course–timing stops.

N, A, X- #3

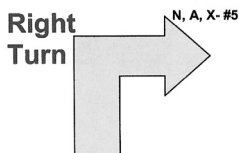


3. **HALT – Sit** – While heeling, **the handler halts and the dog sits** in heel position. The team then moves forward, with the dog in heel position. (Stationary exercise)

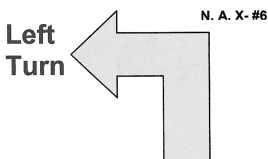
N, A, X- #4



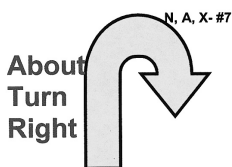
4. **HALT – Down Dog** – While heeling, the **handler halts and the dog sits**. The handler then commands and/or signals the **dog to down**, followed by the command to **heel forward from the down position**. (Stationary exercise)



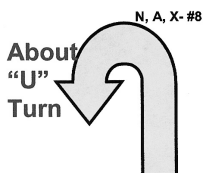
5. **\*Right Turn** – Performed as a 90° turn to the right, as in traditional obedience.



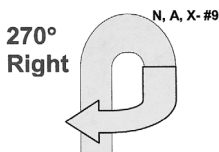
6. **\*Left Turn** – Performed as a 90° turn to the left, as in traditional obedience.



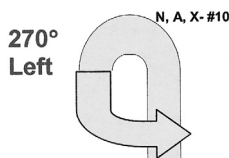
7. **\*About Turn – Right** – While heeling, the team makes a 180° about turn to the handler's right.



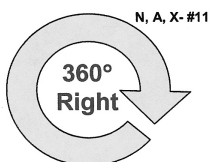
8. **\*About “U” Turn** – While heeling, the team makes a 180° turn to the handler's left.



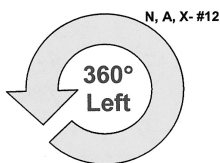
9. **\*270° Right Turn** – While heeling, the team makes a 270° turn to the handler's right. 270° turns are performed as a tight circle, but not around the exercise sign.



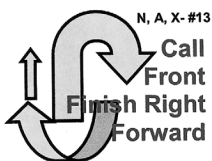
10. **\*270° Left Turn** – While heeling, the team makes a **270° turn to the handler's left**. 270° turns are performed as a tight circle, but not around the exercise sign.



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 the exercise directs the handler to command and/or signal 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.

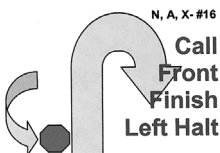
The **dog does not sit before moving forward** in heel position with the handler. *Handler must not step forward or backward to aid the dog as the dog moves toward heel position.* (Stationary exercise)



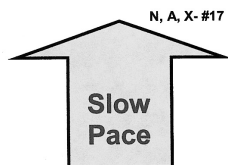
14. **Call Dog Front – Finish Left – Forward** – While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (**dog sits in front** and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. Second part of the exercise directs the handler to command and/or signal 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. *Handler must not step forward or backward to aid the dog as the dog moves toward heel position.* (Stationary exercise)



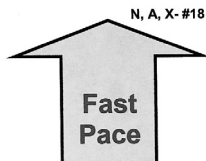
15. **Call Dog Front – Finish Right – HALT** – While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (**dog sits in front** and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. Second part is the **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. *Handler must not step forward or backward to aid the dog as the dog moves toward heel position.* (Stationary exercise)



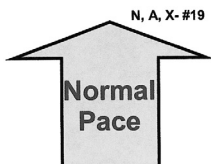
16. **Call Dog Front – Finish Left – HALT** – While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (**dog sits in front** and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to a sit in the front position. Second part is the **finish to the left**, where the dog must return to heel position by moving around the left side of the handler and sit in heel position. **Dog must sit** in heel position before moving forward in heel position with the handler. *Handler must not step forward or backward to aid the dog as the dog moves toward heel position.* (Stationary exercise)



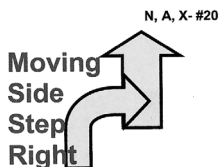
17. **\*Slow Pace – Dog and handler must slow down noticeably.** This must be followed by a normal pace unless it is the last station on the course.



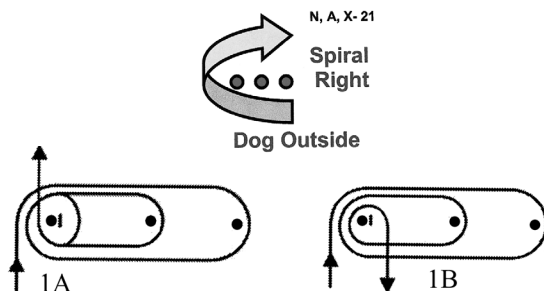
18. **\*Fast Pace – Dog and handler must speed up noticeably.** This must be followed by a normal pace.



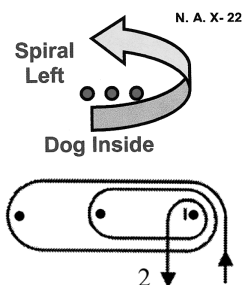
19. **\*Normal Pace – Dog and handler must move forward, walking briskly and naturally.** This station can only be used after a change of pace.



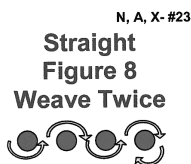
20. **Moving Sidestep Right – While heeling, the handler takes one step to the right, leading with the right foot,** and continues moving forward along the newly established line. The **dog moves with the handler.** The exercise shall be performed just before the exercise sign. (This exercise shall be 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 sidestep 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.**



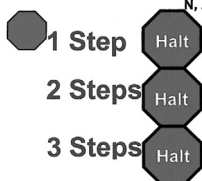
N, A, X- #24

## Serpentine Weave Once



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 starts. **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.

N, A, X- #25

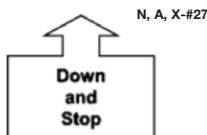


25. **HALT – 1, 2 and 3 Steps Forward** – The **handler halts and the dog sits** in heel position to begin the exercise. The **handler takes one step forward and halts** with the dog maintaining heel position. **The dog sits when the handler halts. This is followed by two steps forward–halt, and three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

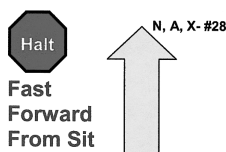
N, A, X- #26



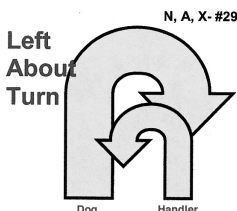
26. **Call Front – 1, 2 and 3 Steps Backward** – While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (**dog sits in front** and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to a sit in the front position. With the dog in 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 and/or signals the dog to resume heel position. When returning to the heel position, the dog does not sit before the handler moves forward. (Stationary exercise)



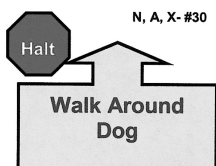
27. **Down and Stop** – While moving with the dog in heel position, the handler commands and/or signals the **dog to down** as **the handler comes to a stop** next to the dog. Once the **dog is completely down**, the handler moves forward, commanding **the dog to move forward from down position**. (Stationary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



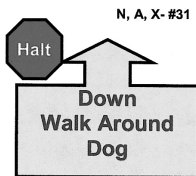
28. **HALT – Fast Forward from Sit** – The **handler halts and the dog sits** in heel position. With the dog sitting in heel position, the **handler commands and/or signals the dog to heel and immediately moves forward at a fast pace**. This must be followed by a normal pace. (Stationary exercise)



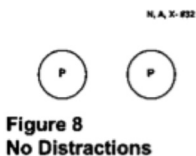
29. **Left About Turn** – While moving with the dog in heel position, the **handler makes an about turn to the left**, while at the same time, the **dog must move around the handler to the right** and into heel position. The **dog does not sit** before moving forward in heel position with the handler.



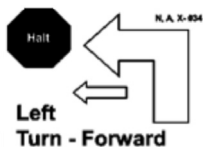
30. **HALT and Walk Around Dog** – **Handler halts and dog sits**. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler commands and/or signals the **dog to stay**, then proceeds to **walk around the dog to the left**, returning to heel position. The **handler must pause** in heel position before moving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



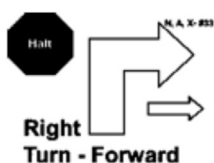
31. **HALT – Down – Walk Around Dog – Handler halts and dog sits.** With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler commands and/or signals the **dog to down and stay**, then proceeds to **walk around the dog to the left**, returning to heel position. The **handler must pause** in heel position before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



32. **Figure 8 – No Distractions –** Two pylons or posts spaced approximately 6-8 feet apart. The team enters the sequence with the posts on either left or right and will perform a complete figure 8 around the posts or pylons, **crossing the center point three times.**



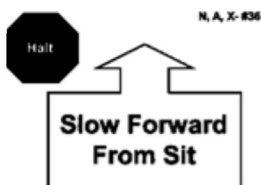
33. **HALT – Left Turn – Forward – Handler halts, dog sits.** With the dog sitting the handler commands and/or signals the dog to heel, as the handler turns to the left and continues to move forward in the new direction without hesitation. **The dog must turn with handler as the handler turns.** (Stationary exercise)



34. **HALT – Right Turn – Forward** – Handler halts, dog sits. With the dog sitting the handler commands and/or signals the dog to heel, as the handler turns to the right and continues to move forward in the new direction without hesitation. The dog must turn with the handler as the handler turns. (Stationary exercise)



35. **Call Front – Return to Heel** – While heeling the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position. The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. Dog sits in front and faces the handler. The handler will then walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position and pause. Dog must remain sitting as handler walks around dog. (This is a 180° change of direction, about turn.) (Stationary exercise)

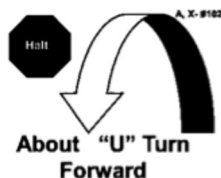


36. **HALT – Slow Forward From Sit** – The handler halts, and the dog sits in heel position. The handler then commands and/or signals the dog to heel and moves forward at a slow pace. The dog must maintain heel position as handler slowly moves forward. This must be followed by a normal pace, unless it is the last station on the course. (Stationary exercise)

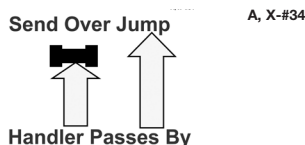
THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES MAY BE USED IN ADVANCED AND EXCELLENT CLASSES ONLY



101. **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)



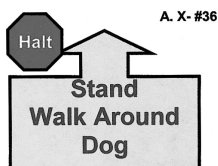
102. **HALT – About “U” Turn and Forward**–Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the team turns 180° to the left and immediately moves forward. (Stationary exercise)



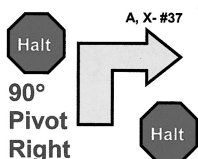
103. **\*Send Over Jump – Handler Passes By** – While moving with the dog in heel position, the handler directs the dog to take the jump as the handler passes by the jump without any pause, hesitation or stopping. When the dog has completed the jump in the proper direction, it is called to heel position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



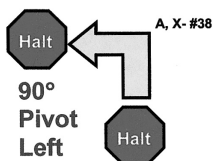
104. **HALT – Turn Right One Step – Call to Heel – Halt** – Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting, the handler commands and/or signals the dog to stay. The handler then turns to the right, while taking one step in that direction, and halts. The dog is directed to heel position and must move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



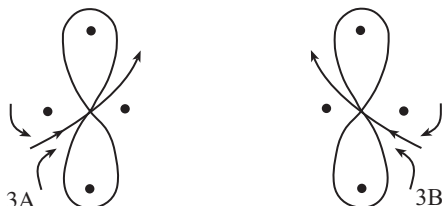
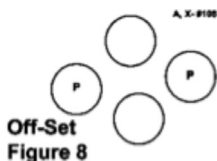
105. **HALT – Stand Dog – Walk Around – Handler halts and dog sits.**  
 With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler stands the dog and commands and/or signals the dog to stay as the handler walks around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The handler must pause in heel position before 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 and the dog must move forward from the stand position. Handler may not touch the dog in the Excellent Class. (Stationary exercise)



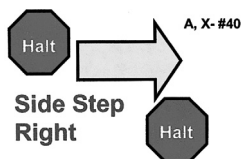
106. **HALT – 90° Pivot Right – HALT – Handler halts and dog sits.**  
 With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler pivots 90° to the right and halts. The dog moves with the handler and sits in heel position. (Stationary exercise)



107. **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)



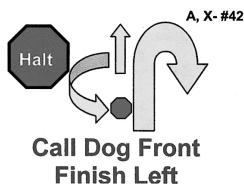
108. **Offset Figure 8** – This exercise requires two pylons or posts placed about 8–10 feet apart, around which the team will perform a complete Figure 8, crossing the center point three times without disturbing the distractions. Two distractions will be arranged to the sides of the figure 8 about 5–6 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. *Pylons or posts may not be shared with other exercises.*



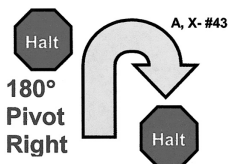
109. **HALT – Side-step Right – HALT** – Handler halts in front of the station sign and the dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler moves one step directly to the right and halts. The dog moves with the handler and sits in heel position when the handler halts. The exercise shall 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 sidestep to the right to pass the sign. (**Stationary exercise**)



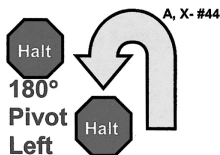
110. **HALT – Call Dog Front – Finish Right – Handler halts and dog sits.** With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler calls the **dog to front** and the **dog sits** in the front position, facing the handler. On command, the **dog then moves** from the front position **around the right of the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



111. **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)

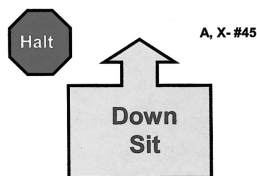


112. **HALT – 180° Pivot Right – HALT – Handler halts and dog sits.** With the dog sitting in heel position, the **handler pivots 180° to the right and halts.** The **dog moves with the handler and sits** in heel position. (Stationary exercise)

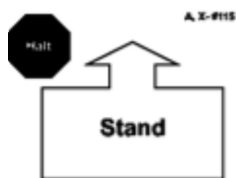


113. **HALT – 180° Pivot Left – HALT–Handler halts and dog sits.** With the dog sitting in heel position, the **handler pivots 180° to the left and halts.** The **dog moves with the handler and sits** in heel position. (Stationary exercise)

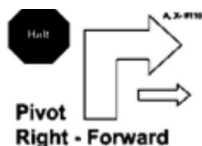




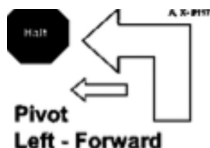
114. **HALT – Down – Sit – Handler halts and dog sits.** With dog sitting in heel position, the handler commands and/or signals the **dog to down, then to sit.** (Stationary exercise)



115. **HALT – Stand – Handler halts and dog sits.** With the dog sitting in heel position, **the handler will stand the dog.** Handler may touch the dog, move forward to stand the dog and may pose the dog as in the show ring. Handler then resumes heel position **while the dog stands in place.** Handler pauses before moving forward. (Stationary exercise)



116. **HALT – Pivot Right – Forward – The handler halts and the dog sits** in heel position. The **handler** commands and/or signals the dog to heel, **then pivots to the right and dog and handler move forward.** (Stationary exercise)

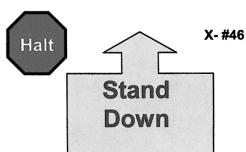


117. **HALT – Pivot Left – Forward – The handler halts and the dog sits** in heel position. The **handler** commands and/or signals the dog to heel, **then pivots to the left and dog and handler move forward.** (Stationary exercise)

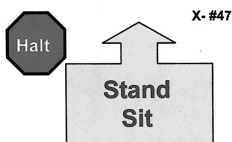


118. **HALT – Leave Dog – 2 Steps – Call to Heel – Forward –** The handler halts, and the dog sits in heel position. While the dog remains sitting the handler takes two steps forward and pauses. The handler moves forward and commands the dog to resume heel position. The dog must move briskly. (Stationary exercise)

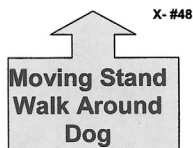
**THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES MAY BE USED IN THE EXCELLENT CLASS ONLY**



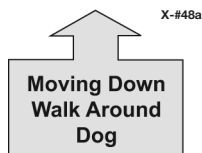
201. **HALT – Stand – Down –** Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the handler will stand the dog (without physical handling or moving forward), then command and/or signal the dog to down. The handler then commands and/or signals the dog to heel forward from the down position. (Stationary exercise)



202. **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 command and/or signal the dog to sit. The handler then commands and/or signals the dog to heel forward from the sitting position. (Stationary exercise)



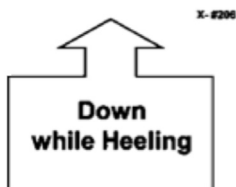
203. **Moving stand – Walk around dog –** While heeling and without pausing, the handler will stand the dog and walk around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The handler must pause in heel position after returning to the dog. Dog must move forward from the standing position.



204. **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.**



205. **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.**



206. **Down While Heeling – While moving forward, without pause or hesitation, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to down and stay as the handler continues forward about 6 feet to the Call to Heel marker. The handler will turn and face the dog, pause and then command and/or signal the dog to heel. This is a 180° change of direction, about turn. (This sign will be followed within 6 feet by the Call to Heel marker.) Dog must return to heel position and sit, the handler must pause before moving forward. (Stationary exercise)**



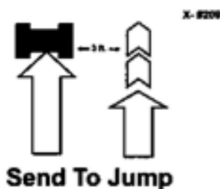
207. **Stand While Heeling** – While moving forward, without pause or hesitation, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stand and stay as the handler continues forward about 6 feet to the Call to Heel marker. The handler will turn and face the dog, pause and then command and/or signal the dog to heel. This is a 180° change of direction, about turn. (This sign will be followed within 6 feet by the Call to Heel marker.) Dog must return to heel position and sit, the handler must pause before moving forward. (Stationary exercise)



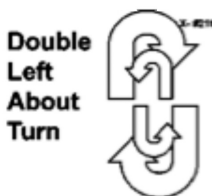
208. **Stand – Leave Dog – Sit Dog – Call Front – Finish** – While heeling, the handler will stop and command and/or signal the dog to stand. The dog must stand and stay without sitting first. Then the handler will walk forward approximately 6 feet to the Call to Heel marker. The handler will turn to face the dog and command and/or signal the dog to sit. When the dog sits, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to front. The dog sits in the front position facing the handler. On command and/or signal, the dog will move to heel position. Dog must sit in heel position before moving forward with the handler. (Stationary exercise) (This exercise reverses the direction of the team.)



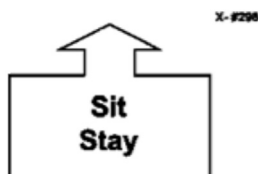
209. **Stand – Leave Dog – Down Dog – Call Front – Finish** – While heeling, the handler will stop and stand the dog using a command and/or signal, then the handler will walk forward approximately 6 feet to the Call to Heel marker. The dog must stand and stay without sitting first. The handler will turn to face the dog and command and/or signal the dog to down. When the dog downs, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to front. The dog must sit in the front position facing the handler. On command and/or signal, the dog will move to heel position. The dog must sit in heel position before moving forward with the handler. (Stationary exercise) (This exercise reverses the direction of the team.)



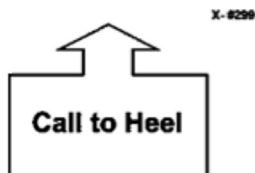
210. **Send to Jump** – At the sign for this station, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to leave heel position to execute the jump. The dog must leave the handler immediately and execute the jump. The handler must maintain a straight path of at least a 3 foot distance away from the jump and may not pass the jump until the dog has returned to heel position. The dog must jump the jump in the proper direction and return to heel position without pause, hesitation, or stopping. The team then continues to the next station.



211. **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 must 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.



298. **Sit Stay** – This sign will be used as a marker for the sit stay exercise. The dog must remain in the sit position while the handler retrieves the leash and returns to heel position and the judge says “exercise finished.”



299. **\*Call to Heel** – This sign will be used as a marker for associated exercises.



## AKC Code of Sportsmanship

*PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.*

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.

Complete text of booklet available at:  
[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

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