

Washington State 4-H Dog Project

Rally Obedience

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Introduction

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

The team of dog and handler moves continuously at a brisk, but normal, pace with the dog under control within a 2-foot area at the handler's left side. There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during the numbered exercises and between the exercise signs; however, perfect "heel position" is not required. Any faults in traditional obedience that would be evaluated and scored as a one point deduction or more should be scored the same in Rally, unless otherwise mentioned in this document. After the judge's "Forward" order, the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered signs correctly.

Unlimited communication from the handler to the dog is to be encouraged and not penalized. Unless otherwise specified in these Regulations, handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement. Multiple commands and/or signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. The handler may not touch the dog or make physical corrections. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands or intimidating signals will be penalized.

Rally promotes fun and enjoyment and teamwork for dogs and handlers at all levels of competition.

Chapter 1

General Procedures

Section 1 - Space Requirements

The required minimum area for a rally course is 40 x 50 feet, however 40 x 80 feet is recommended. The floor covering or ground surface must be the same as would be suitable for traditional AKC obedience trials.

Section 2 - 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 3 – Signs and Holders

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

Colors used are optional. Twenty exercise sign holders are required plus one each for the Start and Finish signs. All sign holders or signs (not including those for Start and Finish) will be clearly and sequentially numbered on the course, with numbers approximately 3 inches high. Signs with an asterisk (numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, and 34) may be used multiple times on a rally course. Two of each of those signs must be available for the judge's use. All other signs may only be used once on any course. Stationary exercises are any signs indicating a "Halt" or no forward motion.

Section 4 - Placement of Signs

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

The course for each class will be posted at the ring prior to the familiarization time (see below). If possible, copies will be given to exhibitors at check-in when armbands are distributed for the class.

Section 5 - 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 said signs.

Section 6 – Familiarization Time

Prior to the start of each class, a 15-minute walk-through is allowed for handlers, without their dogs. If needed, the judge may split the class for the walk-through and adjust the time accordingly. 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.

Section 7 – Judging

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

Section 8 - General Scoring

Scores will be posted ringside after each dog and handler team has completed the final exercise. Times will be recorded but not posted. Times will be used only to break ties for Champion and Reserve Champion awards.

Scoring for all levels is based on a maximum score of 100 points. The following deductions shall apply:

1-point deduction for each of the following:

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

3-point deduction for each of the following:

- repeat of a station (a maximum of 2 re-tries allowed)
- pylon/post knocked over (on Figure Eight, Spiral, and Serpentine)
- lack of control
- loud command or intimidating signal
- excessive barking

10-point deduction for each of the following:

- incorrectly performed station
- hitting the jump

1- to 10-point deduction:

- lack of teamwork
- lack of briskness
- handler error

A score of zero (0) shall be given for:

- minimum requirements not met
- dog unmanageable or uncontrolled barking
- station not attempted
- consistently tight lead
- substantially out of position/not completing the honor exercise
- elimination in the ring during judging
- bar knocked off the uprights
- using a jump as an aid in going over
- failure of a dog to go over the jump in the proper direction
- handler error

Section 9 - Timing

All dogs will be timed. Times will be used only in the event of ties for Champion or Reserve Champion. Timing will begin when the Judge gives the order, "Forward" and will end when

dog and handler cross the finish line. In the case of tie scores, the dog and handler completing the course in the least amount of time will receive the higher placement and a plus (+) after the score. The original scores will not be changed. In the event that both the score and time are the same, the dog and handler teams will repeat the course and be judged and timed again.

Section 10 - Ribbons

The 4-H Rally Obedience classes ribbons shall be awarded using the Danish system of judging. All exhibitors shall receive ribbons based on scores as follows:

100-85 Blue ribbon

84 - 70 Red ribbon

69 - 0 White ribbon

One Champion ribbon may be awarded to the exhibitor/dog team with the highest blue ribbon score, or highest score and fastest time in case of a tie score. A Reserve Champion ribbon may be awarded to the second highest score or the highest score and second fastest time in case of a tie for highest score. Up to two Reserve Champion ribbons may be awarded in case of a tie for this award.

Chapter 2

Classes

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 must have between 10 – 15 stations (Start and Finish not included) with no more than five (5) stationary exercises per class. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. No handler/dog team may be entered in this class who has been awarded a blue ribbon in this class at a state-level Rally Obedience event.

Section 2 - Rally Advanced Class

All exercises are judged off leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. Rally Advanced A and B must have between 12 – 17 stations (Start and Finish not included) with no more than seven (7) stationary exercises per class. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. No handler/dog team may be entered in this class who has been awarded a blue ribbon in this class at a state-level Rally Obedience event.

Section 2A – Jumps

One jump must be used for this class. It may be any jump used as standard equipment in 4-H 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.

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 hurdle 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 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 hurdles will be used for a jump of 32 inches and two hurdles for a jump of 16 or 24 inches. When decreasing the number of hurdles in the jump, the highest hurdle will be removed first.

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

The Bar Jump also has two uprights. These are constructed to support only a striped bar which is set at the dog's required jump height.

Section 2B - Jump Heights

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

<u>Height of Dog at Withers</u>	<u>Height to be Jumped</u>	<u>Under 15"</u>	<u>8"</u>
15" and under 20"	12"		
20" and over	16"		

Section 3 - Rally Excellent Class

All exercises are judged off leash except the Honor Exercise. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash.

Rally Excellent must have between 15 – 20 stations (Start and Finish not included) with no more than seven stationary exercises 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. A person may enter more than one dog in this class.

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

Section 4 - The Honor Exercise

Prior to each class, the judge will designate either the sit or the down for the Honor Exercise, as well as the placement in the ring, and will also designate where the handler will stand during the exercise – either next to or facing the dog. The Honor Exercise must not be in the path of the dog and handler team that follows.

Volunteer dogs will be used for both honoring the first dog in the class and as a course run-through when the last dog performs the Honor Exercise.

After completing the course, each dog and handler may either re-enter through the finish gate, or they may proceed directly to the honor station. The dog must remain in either a sit or a down position to honor the next dog and handler's entire course. This exercise must be performed on leash. For the Honor Exercise, the ring steward will monitor each team, record the score, and immediately report it to the table steward.

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Appendix

Judge's Worksheet, Option #1

Armband # _____

Date _____

Rally Judge's Worksheet

Time _____

Final Score _____

Rally Class

Novice

Advanced

Excellent

Name of Trial: _____ Breed _____ Jump Height _____

Maximum Point Deduction	Deductions	Marks for Multiple Occurrences Example (1111)	Points Deducted
1 Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tight Leash • Poor Sits • Interference with Handler • Slow to respond • Resistant to Respond • Lack of Teamwork • Touching Jump • Out of Position 		
3 Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat of a station • Pylon knocked over • Lack of control • Loud command or intimidating signal • Excessive barking • Handler error 		
10 Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorrectly performed station • Hitting the jump • Handler error 		
1-10 Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Teamwork 		
Non-Qualifying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum requirements not met • Dog unmanageable • Station not attempted • Consistently tight lead • Substantially out of position • Eliminates in the ring • Knocks bar off uprights • Handler Error 		
		Possible Score 100	100
		Deductions:	- _____
		Total Score:	_____

Judge's Worksheet, Option #2

Rally Judge's Worksheet

RALLY CLASS: RN RA RX A / B Arm Band # _____

Judge: _____ Club: _____ Breed: _____

Course #: _____ Date: _____ Jumps: _____

Maximum Deduction	DEDUCTION	STATION #	POINTS LOST
1 Point	Tight Leash		
	Poor Sits		
	Interference with Handler		
	Slow to Respond		
	Resistant to Respond		
	Lack of Team Work		
	Touching Jump		
3 Points	Out of Position		
	Repeat of a Station		
	Pylon Knocked Over		
	Lack of Control		
	Loud Command or Intimidating Signal		
	Excessive Barking		
10 Points	Handler Error		
	Incorrectly Performed Station		
	Hitting the Jump		
1-10 Points	Handler Error		
Non-qualifying	Lack of Teamwork		
	Minimum Requirements Not Met		
	Dog Unmanageable		
	Station not attempted		
	Consistently Tight Lead		
	Substantially out of position		
	Eliminates in the ring		
	Knocks Bar Off Uprights		
Handler Error			

Comments: _____

Possible Score 100

Deductions: - _____

Total Score: _____

Rally Judge's Book

Event: _____
Event Date _____
Judge _____

Maximum Score - 100 points

NOVICE ADVANCED EXCELLENT

ARMBAND #	BREED OF DOG	TIME	POINTS LOST	FINAL SCORE

Time Started: _____

Time Finished: _____

Judge's Signature: _____

References

The following references are provided for additional information about Rally Obedience.

Title	Link	Comments
AKC Obedience Regulations	www.akc.org	