Rally Regulations

Effective January 1, 2008
AKC RALLY® REGULATIONS
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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 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 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.

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.

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

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 TWENTY-FOUR (24) WEEKS before the closing date for entries to the event.

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

Section 2–Premium Lists and Catalogs. A premium list and a catalog must be provided for 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 no more than 22 dogs per hour. Walkthroughs should be performed as outlined in the Rally Regulations, Chapter 2, Section 2–“Entry Limits”, and Section 7–“Familiarization Time.”

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

Section 5–Recording Fees. At every licensed or member club rally trial, a recording fee of $3.00 shall be required for each entry of each dog. A marked catalog and all recording fees must be sent to AKC so as to reach its office within seven (7) days after the close of the trial.
CHAPTER 2
GENERAL PROCEDURES

Section 1–Space Requirements. The ring sizes for rally shall be 40x50 feet to 50x60 feet or any combination of the sizes in between. The floor covering or ground surface must be the same as would be suitable for traditional AKC Obedience trials.

Section 2–Entry Limits. Entry limits may be based on ring availability, or as specified by the club offering the event. The judging program will schedule no more than 22 dogs per hour 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.

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

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

Colors used are optional. Twenty exercise sign holders are required plus one each for the Start and Finish signs. All sign holders or signs (not including those for Start and Finish) will be clearly and sequentially numbered on the course, with numbers approximately 3 inches high. Signs with an asterisk (numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 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 5–Placement of Signs. Signs will be placed to the right of the handler’s path except for those indicating a change in direction, in which case the sign will be directly in front of the handler to aid in that change. Exercises using cones may require entry with the sign on the left. Exact placement of signs is made by the judge while walking the course along the path that will be taken by the handlers.

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

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 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. 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.

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:

1-point deduction for each of the following:
• tight leash
• dog interfering with handler
• poor sits
• slow, delay, or resistance to respond
• touching or ticking a jump, pylon, post or person
• out of position

3-point deduction for each of the following:
• repeat of a station (only one (1) retry of each station will be allowed for all class levels)
• pylon/post knocked over on Figure Eight, Spiral, and Serpentine
• lack of control
• loud command or intimidating signal
• excessive barking
• hitting the jump
10-point deduction for each of the following:
• incorrectly performed station*
• failure to complete the Honor Exercise (IP)–No retries allowed

1 to 10-point deduction:
• lack of teamwork
• lack of briskness
• handler error**

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

*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.

**Handler errors can be assessed from 1 to 10-points up to non-qualifying. Handler errors can be assessed at any station or during movement between stations on a course. Once a handler has stopped on any halt exercise, the handler cannot move his feet to assist a dog without incurring a handler error.

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

Section 10–Timing. All dogs will be timed. Times will be used only in the event of ties for a placement, as mentioned in Section 9. Timing will begin when the judge gives the order, “Forward” and will end when dog and handler cross the Finish station. In the case of 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 runoff.
Times will be entered to the 1/100 of a second on all runs. In the event of a timing malfunction, the timer will notify the judge and table steward immediately after the dog and handler have finished running the course. No time will be recorded for the team at that time. In the event of a tie at the end of the class 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 re-run. If the dog’s score is less than the original score from the first run, the team will be placed below its competitor 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 runoff.

Option 2–The team may keep their original score and accept the loss of the runoff.

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 |

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 two inches wide and a minimum of eight 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, 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. Qualifying ribbons or rosettes and ribbons or rosettes in all non-regular classes will be at least two inches wide and a minimum of eight 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. 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

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

Rally Novice A and B must have between 10-15 stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) stationary exercises per class.

The Rally Novice A Class: To be eligible for entry in this class, dogs may not have won an AKC Rally Novice (RN) title or any AKC obedience title prior to the close of entries. A handler must own the dog entered or be a member of the owner’s household or immediate family.

The handler may not have previously handled any dog that has earned an AKC rally title or any AKC obedience title. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. After a dog earns the Rally Novice (RN) title, it may continue to compete in this class for 60 days. No dog may be entered in both Rally Novice A and Rally Novice B at any one trial.

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

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

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

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

The Rally Advanced B Class: To be eligible for entry into this class, competing dogs shall have won the Rally Novice (RN) title prior to close of entries. A dog completing the Rally Advanced (RA) title may continue to compete in this class indefinitely. The owner or any other person may handle 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 1/2 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 (2) standard uprights. Designs should be such that they do not interfere with the jumping of a dog. Various colors and decorations are allowed; however, there must be nothing hanging from the jump. It is the judge’s responsibility to see that the jumps are set for each dog in accordance with these Regulations.

The Broad Jump will consist of three telescoping hurdles, each approximately 8 inches wide. The largest board will measure about 4 feet 10 inches long (if from a 5 foot set) and about 5 inches at the highest point.

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

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Height of Dog at Withers</th>
<th>Height to be Jumped</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 10 inches</td>
<td>4 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 inches to less than 15 inches</td>
<td>8 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 inches to less than 20 inches</td>
<td>12 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 inches and over</td>
<td>16 inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 3–Rally Excellent Class. All exercises are judged off leash except the Honor exercise. Handlers must provide a 6-foot leash when participating in the Honor exercise. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash.

Rally Excellent must have between 15-20 stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) stationary exercises. Courses shall have a minimum of three (3) Advanced level stations, and a minimum of two (2) Excellent level stations, plus the two (2) required jumps and the Honor exercise per class.
Unlike in the Rally Novice and Advanced Classes, in Rally Excellent, handlers are not allowed to pat their legs or clap their hands to encourage the dog. Verbal encouragement, multiple commands, and/or inaudible signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler’s arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. Handlers may not touch their dog or make any physical corrections.

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

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

Two jumps must be used for this class. Jumps may be any jump or any combination of the jumps used as standard equipment in the 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—The Honor Exercise.** Prior to each class, the judge will designate either the sit or the down for the Honor exercise, the placement of the exercise within the ring and when the Honor is to be performed by each dog. The Honor exercise must not be in the path of the course. After having been directed by the judge or Honor steward to the Honor exercise station, the Honor handler will command and/or signal the Honor dog to take the designated position. When the judge commands the next handler to begin the course with the order “Forward,” the Honor handler will command and/or signal his dog to “Stay,” move forward to the end of a 6 foot leash, then turn and face his dog. The Honor steward will indicate the completion of the scoring of the Honor exercise when the running dog and handler have crossed the finish station by giving the order “Exercise Finished.” The Honor handler will then return to and release his dog from the stay.

The Honor dog must maintain the designated position throughout the entire performance of the running dog and handler without receiving physical assistance from the Honor handler. There will be no retry allowed for the Honor exercise. If the course run is interrupted at any time for any reason, the judge will direct the Honor steward to give the “Exercise Finished” order and the Honor exercise will be considered...
complete; but the dog will remain in the ring without being scored for the next running dog. This will eliminate the need for a volunteer dog for the next running dog.

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

The Honor exercise is not to be considered one of the stationary exercises on the course.

Section 5—The Rally Advanced Excellent Title. Upon completion of the Rally Excellent title, qualifying scores may be accumulated from the Rally Advanced B Class and the Rally Excellent B Class to earn the Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE) title.

In order to receive the RAE title, a dog must qualify 10 times in both the Rally Advanced B Class and the Rally Excellent B Class at the same trial. The RAE title will appear at the end of the dog’s name and a numeric designation will indicate the number of times the dog has met RAE requirements, i.e. RAE2, RAE3, etc.
CHAPTER 4
NON-REGULAR CLASSES

Section 1–Rally Pairs Class (one handler, two dogs). Rally Pairs class consists of competition by handlers 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, which can be offered by the event-giving club, will be Rally Novice, Rally Advanced and/or Rally Excellent, excluding jumps. Clubs may offer one or all levels at events. A club may offer Non-Regular Rally Excellent without having to offer any other level as a non-regular class.

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

Suggested judging rate of 12 teams per hour.

Section 2–Rally T Challenge. The non-regular Rally T Challenge class will be based on the Rally Regulations for the Rally Advanced Class. Scores will be based on a possible 200 points. All currently approved stations for the Rally Advanced class, includingNovice class stations, may be used in addition to the Rally T Challenge exercises listed in the approved station booklet.

In addition to the new exercises that can be used, a maximum time limit will be set (see Course Time).

Scoring–All stations will have a maximum value of ten (10) points per station. There will not be any NQ’s for a dog’s performance; all dogs will be awarded points. It is possible for a dog to receive a negative score as well as a score over 200. Ties will be broken by time.

Time Points–A dog that runs past the maximum course time limit (see Course Time) will have one (1) additional point deducted from its final score for each full second the dog runs over the limit. Dogs whose time is less than the maximum course time limit (see Course Time), will be awarded one (1) point for each second under the limit.

Course Time–Time limits will be set by the judge. Judges will walk their courses at a normal pace from start to finish. Each walkthrough will be timed. The course time will be the average of the three walkthroughs by the judge plus five (5) seconds for each stationary exercise on the course. The average will be rounded up to the next full second. The course time will not be posted or announced to the participants until the end of the class. Scores for this class will not be posted until the end of the class.

Walkthrough–Each handler in the class will be given a chance to walk the course once before the class starts. For the walkthrough, exhibitors will be lined up before the class begins and allowed to walk the course from start to finish, walking in a single-file line from station to station. Handlers must walk single-file without practicing any station and must
immediately leave the ring upon passing the “Finish” sign. Handlers practicing any station along the walkthrough will be assessed a five point handler error if observed by the judge prior to the start of the class. 

Suggested judging rate of 15 dogs per hour.

Section 3–Rally T Challenge Team Competition. This class may be offered as a team competition. This course time for the team competition will be the course time as determined for Rally T Challenge, as described previously, multiplied by the number of dogs defined as a team by the event-giving club. Team time will run continuous from the start of the first dog until the finish of the last dog on the team. The maximum score will be the number of dogs allowed for each team multiplied by 200 points.

Suggested judging rate of four teams per hour.

Section 4–Rally Team Competition. For the Rally non-regular Team Competition, any of the regular Rally class levels may be offered. Teams will consist of four handlers with 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.

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

Suggested judging rate of four teams per hour.

Section 5–Rally Plus. All exercises and performance in the Rally Plus Class will be judged based on the AKC Obedience Regulations. All exercises for this class will be performed off lead. A perfect score would be 200 points. As with other non-regular classes, a maximum of 10 points will be assessed to each station. It is possible for a dog and handler team to receive a negative score in this class.

Heeling–No point value assigned to heeling, but points can be deducted based on the performance of the dog and handler team as per Obedience Regulations. Dogs will be judged on heeling from start to finish. The heeling course for the first part of the class shall be 180 to 200 linear feet of heeling. The heeling pattern will include additional heeling once the dog and handler return to the Rally portion of the class, moving from station to station after the first “Halt” and “Sit”.

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

The handler may talk to his dog, giving encouragement or addition-
al commands and/or signals to heel, up until the cone or other marker placed three (3) feet after the first turn.

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

The team will be required to perform the Normal, Fast, and Slow as in the Novice Obedience Class. In addition, the dog and handler will be required to perform all the turns on the course based on rally turns: 90°, 270°, 360°, about “u” turn, left about, and right about.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Suggested judging rate of 12 dogs per hour.
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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

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

**Lame**–irregularity or impairment of the function of locomotion, irrespective of the cause or how slight or severe.

**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.

**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 SIGN DESCRIPTIONS

Designated wording and symbols for Rally Signs–Judges may use duplicates of stations marked with an asterisk in designing their courses. (5,6,7,8,9,10,17,18,19,34)

The principal parts of the exercises are italicized, boldface and underlined.

THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES MAY BE USED IN ALL CLASS LEVELS

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

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

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

4. HALT–Down Dog–While heeling, the handler halts and the dog sits. The handler then commands 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. **(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. (*Stationary exercise*)

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

16. **Call Dog Front–Finish Left–HALT**—While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position ([*dog sits in front*] and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to a sit in the front position. Second part is the finish to the left, where the dog must return to heel position by moving around the left side of the handler and sit in heel position. *Dog must sit* in heel position before moving forward in heel position with the handler. (*Stationary exercise*)
17. **Slow Pace**—*Dog and handler must slow down noticeably.* This must be followed by a normal pace unless it is the last station 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.**
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.

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

26. **Call Front—1, 2 and 3 Steps Backward**—While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (dog sits in front and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to a sit in the front position. With the dog in the front position, the handler takes one step backward and halts. *The dog moves with the handler and sits in the front position as the handler halts.* This is followed by the handler taking two steps backward and a halt, and three steps backward and a halt. *Each time, the dog moves with the handler to the front position and sits as the handler halts.* The handler then commands 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. **Stop and Down**—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)

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

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

33. **HALT—About “U” Turn and Forward—** *Handler halts and dog sits.* With the dog sitting in heel position, *the team turns 180° to the left and immediately moves forward*. (Stationary exercise)
34. *Send Over Jump–Handler Passes By–While moving* with the dog in heel position, the handler directs the dog to take the jump as the handler passes by the jump without any pause, hesitation or stopping. When the dog has completed the jump in the proper direction, it is called to heel position and the team continues to the next exercise.

35. HALT–Turn Right One Step–Call to Heel–Halt–Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting, the handler commands 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)*

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

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

39. **Offset Figure 8**—This exercise requires two pylons or posts placed about 8–10 feet apart, around which the *team will perform a complete Figure 8, crossing the center line three* times. Two distractions will be arranged to the sides of the Figure 8 about 5–6 feet apart. Entry may be between the pylons or posts and the distraction on either side (See 3A and 3B). The distractions will consist of two *securely* covered containers with tempting dog treats; however, dog toys may replace one or both containers, or may be placed next to the containers. The exercise sign may be placed on or near the cone where entry is made into the Offset Figure 8.
40. HALT–Side-step Right–HALT–The *handler halts in front of the station sign and dog sits.* With the dog sitting in heel position, the *handler moves one step directly to the right and halts.* The *dog moves with the handler and sits* in heel position when the handler halts. The exercise shall be performed just before the exercise sign. This exercise shall be considered a change of direction and the sign shall be placed directly in line with the handler’s path, requiring the handler and dog to sidestep to the right to pass the sign. *(Stationary exercise)*

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

42. HALT–Call Dog Front–Finish Left–*Handler halts and dog sits.* With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler calls the *dog to front* and the *dog sits* in the front position facing the handler. On command, the *dog then moves to the handler’s left and sits* in heel position. *Handler must not step forward or backward* to aid dog during exercise. *(Stationary exercise)*
43. **HALT–180° Pivot Right–HALT–** *Handler halts and dog sits.* With the dog sitting in heel position, the **handler pivots 180° to the right** and halts. The **dog moves with the handler and sits** in heel position. *(Stationary exercise)*

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

45. **HALT–Down–Sit–** *Handler halts and dog sits.* With dog sitting in heel position, the handler commands and/or signals the **dog to down, then to sit.** *(Stationary exercise)*
THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES MAY BE USED IN THE EXCELLENT CLASS ONLY

46. HALT–Stand–Down– Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the handler will stand the dog (without physical handling or moving forward), then 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)

47. HALT–Stand–Sit– Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the handler will stand the dog (without physical handling or moving forward), then 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)

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

48A. Moving down–Walk around dog– While heeling and without pausing, the handler will down the dog and walk around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The handler must pause in heel position after returning to the dog. The dog must move forward from the down position.
49. **Backup 3 steps**—While heeling, the handler reverses direction walking backward at least 3 step, without first stopping, then continues heeling forward. The dog moves backward with the handler and maintains heel position throughout the exercise without sitting.

50. **Honor**—This exercise shall be performed on a 6-foot leash. Upon arriving at the Honor exercise station, the handler will command and/or signal his dog to sit or down as directed.

When the judge commands and/or signals the next handler to begin the course with the order “Forward,” the Honor handler will command and/or signal the dog to stay and leave the dog, moving forward to the end of a 6 foot leash, turn and stand facing the dog. The handler will remain in that location until the Honor steward advises they can return to the dog. The dog performing the Honor exercise must remain in the designated sit or down position without moving from that location. The command “Exercise Finished” from the steward will be given when the dog and handler running the course pass the Finish Station. At that time, the exercise is finished and the handler will return to the dog. The Honor exercise must not be in the path of the dog and handler team that follows.

To facilitate the honor for the first and last dogs in the class or section of the class, judges may use volunteer dogs or if the class or section is small enough, they may use dogs from the class to honor the first and last dogs. A judge may use the last dog in a selected section of dogs or a small class to honor the first dog running the course. All dogs in the class or section of a class will be required to perform the Honor exercise. The dog must remain in either a sit or a down position (as directed by the judge), to honor the next dog and handler’s entire course. This exercise must be performed on leash. For the Honor exercise, the Ring steward will monitor each team. At the end of the exercise, the steward will report the performance of the Honor dog and handler team to the judge. The judge will indicate the score to be entered into the judge’s book for the Honor team to the Table steward. The Table steward will then enter the score into the judge’s book.

There will be no retry for the Honor exercise.

The Honor exercise is not a Stationary exercise.
NON-REGULAR RALLY SIGN DESCRIPTIONS

The non-regular exercises listed below can only be used in the Rally T Challenge Class.

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

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

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

NR 4 Leave Dog–2 Steps–Call to Heel–Forward–The handler halts, and the dog sits in heel position. The handler commands and/or signals the dog to stay. The handler takes two steps forward and pauses to command the dog to heel as the handler immediately moves forward. The dog must catch up to the handler and resume heel position. (Stationary exercise)
NR 5 Call Front–1 Step Back Diagonal Right– Front–Finish Right Forward–While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (dog sits in front and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. The handler then takes one step diagonally backward and to the right; the dog moves with the handler and sits in the front position in the new location. The next part of the exercise directs the handler to command and/or signal the dog to change from the front position to the handler’s right, around behind the handler and towards heel position. As the dog clears the handler’s path, the handler moves forward before the dog has completely returned to heel position. The dog does not sit before moving forward in heel position with the handler.

NR 6 Call Front–1 Step Back Diagonal Left–Front, Finish Left Forward–While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (dog sits in front and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. The handler then takes one step diagonally backward and to the left; the dog moves with the handler and sits in the front position in the new location. The next part of the exercise directs the handler to command and/or signal the dog to change from the front position to the handler’s left and move toward heel position. As the dog clears the handler’s path, the handler moves forward before the dog has completely returned to heel position. The dog does not sit before moving forward in heel position with the handler.

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