

# A Practical Guide to Rally Obedience

These notes were part of a seminar conducted by Mrs. Valeta Pethrick from Perth Western Australia, for the Malaysian Kennel Association, to help novice trailers better understand the sport of Rally-O.

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## Understanding Rally-O

By Valeta Pethrick

Rally obedience (also known as Rally or Rally-O) and it is based on obedience. It was originally devised in USA by Charles Kramer and over the years has been introduced into many countries who have found this dog sport interesting and fun.

In the Novice Class, where handlers are able to keep their dogs on lead, provided the dog is working and obeys simple commands, handlers should pass and then progress onto the next class.

In Rally O, unlike regular obedience, instead of waiting for the judge's orders, the competitors proceed around a course of designated stations with the dog in heel position. The course consists of 10 to 20 signs that instruct the team what to do. Unlike traditional obedience, handlers can encourage their dogs verbally, they can pat them and in general, keep them very motivated. However, food and toys are not allowed. No reprimands or harsh commands are used. Rally-O is an exciting new sport for dogs. Rally-O is fun and exciting for both handlers and their dogs and can be combined with traditional obedience with benefits for both disciplines.

There are three levels in Rally:

- Novice, the beginner's class.
- Advanced, for dogs that have completed their Novice title.
- Excellent, for dogs who have their Advanced title
- The next level is the Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE) title, in which the team has to qualify in both Advanced and Excellent in 3 trials.
- 70 pts out of 100 = pass

## CLASSES AND SIGNS



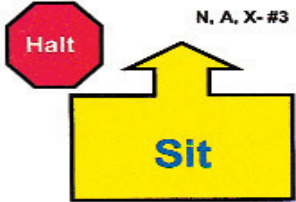
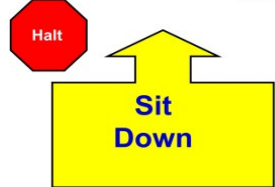
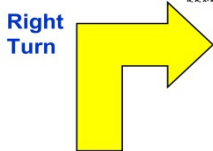
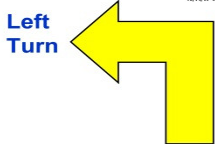

### Rally Novice – R.N.

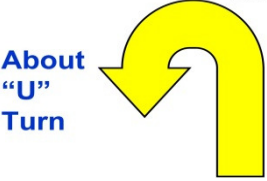


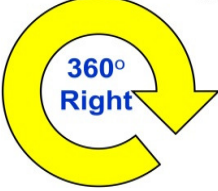

For Dogs six months of age or over and of either sex which are not eligible for the title of Rally Novice (RN).

All exercises are judged on lead, and all dogs must enter and leave the ring on lead.

Rally Novice uses signs 1 – 31 and must have between ten (10) – fifteen (15) stations (start and finish not included) with no more than five (5) stationary exercises per class.

Signs marked with an asterisk (\*) may be used more than once on a Rally course.

<p><b>1. Start</b> - Indicates the beginning of the course. Dog does not have to be sitting at start but must be under effective control.</p>	<p>N, A, X-#1</p> 
<p><b>2. Finish</b> - Indicates the end of the course - timing stops.</p>	<p>N, A, X-#2</p> 
<p><b>3. Halt - Sit</b> - 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)</p>	<p>N, A, X-#3</p> 
<p><b>4. Halt – Sit - Down</b> - 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)</p>	<p>N, A, X-#4</p> 
<p><b>5. * Right Turn</b> - Performed as a 90° turn to the right, as in traditional obedience.</p>	<p>N, A, X-#5</p> 
<p><b>6. * Left Turn</b> - Performed as a 90° turn to the left, as in traditional obedience.</p>	<p>N, A, X-#6</p> 
<p><b>7. *About Turn - Right</b> - While heeling, the team makes a 180° about turn to the handler's right.</p>	<p>N, A, X-#7</p> 

<p><b>8. *About "U" Turn</b> - While heeling, the team makes a 180° turn to the handler's left.</p>	<p><b>About "U" Turn</b></p> 
<p><b>9. *270° Right Turn</b> - While heeling, the team makes a 270° turn to the handler's right. 270° turns are performed as a tight circle, appropriate to the size of the dog but not around the exercise sign.</p>	<p><b>270° Right</b></p> 
<p><b>10. *270° Left Turn</b> - While heeling, the team makes a 270° turn to the handler's left. 270° turns are performed as a tight circle, appropriate to the size of the dog but not around the exercise sign.</p>	<p><b>270° Left</b></p> 
<p><b>11. 360° Right Turn</b> - While heeling, the team makes a 360° turn to the handler's right. 360° turns are performed as a tight circle, appropriate to the size of the dog but not around the exercise sign.</p>	<p><b>360° Right</b></p> 
<p><b>12. 360° Left Turn</b> - While heeling, the team makes a 360° turn to the handler's left. 360° turns are performed as a tight circle, appropriate to the size of the dog but not around the exercise sign.</p>	<p><b>360° Left</b></p> 

**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)

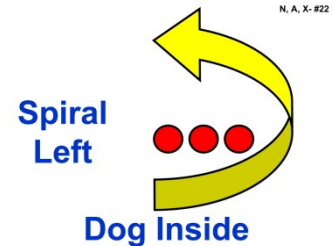


<p><b>16. Call Dog Front – Finish Left - Halt</b> While heeling, the handler stops his/her forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (dog sits in front and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to a sit in front position. The second part is the finish to the left where the dog must move to the handler's left, and sits in the heel position. Dog must sit in the heel position before moving forward with the handler. (Stationary exercise)</p>	<p>N. A. X- #16</p> 
<p><b>17. Slow Pace</b> - Dog and handler must slow down noticeably. This must be followed by a normal pace unless it is the last station on the course.</p>	<p>N. A. X- #17</p> 
<p><b>18. Fast Pace</b> - Dog and handler must speed up noticeably. This must be followed by a normal pace unless it is the last station on the course.</p>	<p>N. A. X- #18</p> 
<p><b>19. Normal Pace</b> - Dog and handler must move forward, walking briskly and naturally.</p>	<p>N. A. X- #19</p> 
<p><b>20. Moving Sidestep Right</b> - While heeling, the handler takes one step diagonally 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 after the exercise sign.</p>	<p>N. A. X- #20</p> 

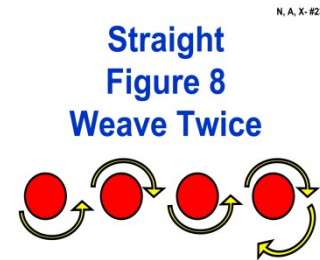
**21. Spiral Right - Dog Outside** - This exercise requires three pylons or posts placed in a straight line with spaces between them of approximately 2.00 – 2.5 metres. Spiral Right indicates the handler must turn to the right when moving around each pylon or post. This places the dog on the outside of the turns. The exercise sign is placed near or on the first pylon or post where the spiral is started.



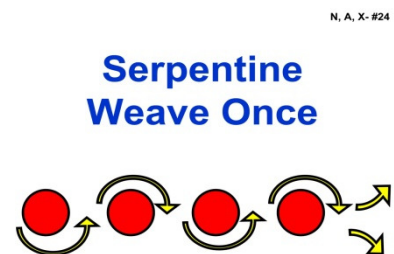
**22. Spiral Left - Dog Inside** - This exercise requires three pylons or posts placed in a straight line with spaces between them of approximately 2.0 – 2.5 metres. Spiral Left indicates that the handler must turn to the left when moving around each pylon or post. This places the dog on the inside of the turns. The exercise sign is placed near or on the first pylon or post where the spiral is started.



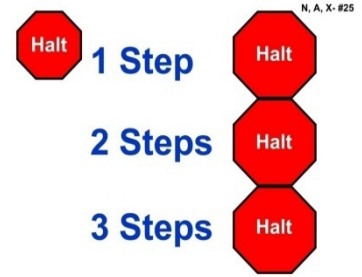
**23. Straight Figure 8 Weave Twice** - This exercise requires four pylons or posts placed in a straight line with spaces between them of approximately 2.0 – 2.5 metres. The exercise sign is placed near or on the first pylon or post where the exercise is started. Entry into the weaving pattern is with 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 2.0 – 2.5 metres. 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)




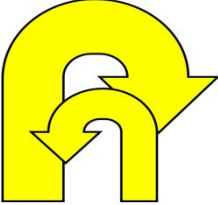


**26. Call Front - 1, 2 and 3 Steps Backward** - While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (dog sits in front and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to a sit in the front position. With the dog in the 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. 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)



**27. Moving - 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)





<p><b>28. Halt - Fast Forward from Sit</b> - 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 unless it is the last station on the course. (Stationary exercise)</p>	<p>N, A, X- #28</p> 
<p><b>29. Left About Turn</b> - 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.</p>	<p>N, A, X- #29</p> 
<p><b>30. Halt - Walk Around Dog</b> - 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)</p>	<p>N, A, X- #30</p> 
<p><b>31. Halt - Down - Walk Around Dog</b> - 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)</p>	<p>N, A, X- #31</p> 

## Rally Advanced Class – R.A.

### Rally Advanced A


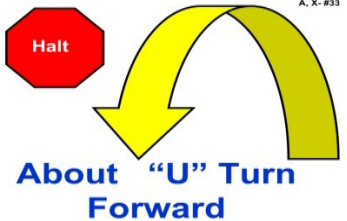
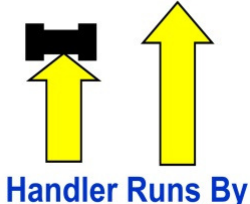

This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Novice (RN) Title but are not eligible for the Rally Advanced (RA) Title.


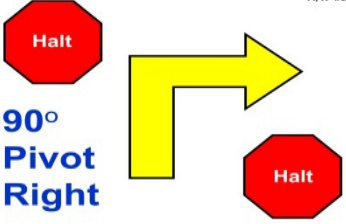
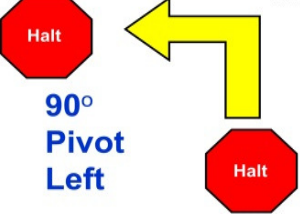
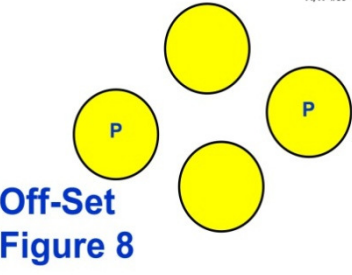
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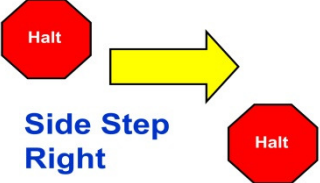
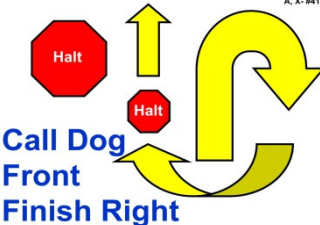

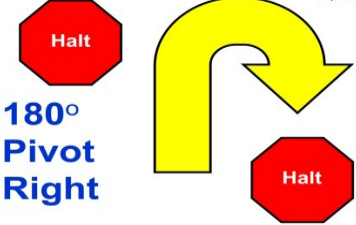
This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Advanced (RA) Title and may continue to compete in this class indefinitely.

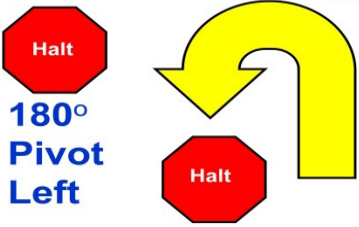
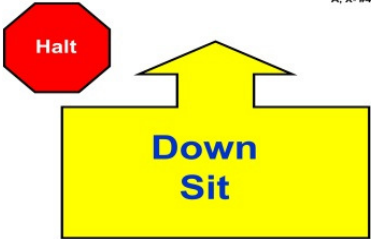
All exercises are judged off lead. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on lead.

Rally Advanced A and B use signs 1- 45 and must have between twelve (12) – seventeen (17) stations (start & finish not included) with no more than seven (7) stationary exercises per class. One (1) jump must be used in this class.

<p><b>32. Halt - About Turn Right and Forward</b> - 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)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A, X- #32</p> 
<p><b>33. Halt - About "U" Turn and Forward</b> - 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)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A, X- #33</p> 
<p><b>34. *Send Over Jump - Handler Passes By</b> - 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.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A, X- #34</p> 
<p><b>35. Halt - Turn Right One Step - Call to Heel - Halt</b> - 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)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A, X- #35</p> 

<p><b>36. Halt - Stand Dog - Walk Around</b> - 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. The Handler may NOT physically assist the dog to move into the stand (Stationary exercise)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A, X- #36</p> 
<p><b>37. Halt - 90° Pivot Right - Halt</b> - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler pivots 90° to the right &amp; halts. The dog moves with the handler and sits in heel position. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place. (Stationary exercise)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A, X- #37</p> 
<p><b>38. Halt - 90° Pivot Left - Halt</b> - 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. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place. (Stationary exercise)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A, X- #38</p> 
<p><b>39. Offset Figure 8</b> - This exercise requires two pylons or posts placed about 2.45 – 3.00 metres apart, around which the team will perform a complete Figure 8, crossing the centre line three times. Two distractions will be arranged to the sides of the Figure 8 about 1.55 – 1.85 metres apart. Entry may be between the pylons or posts and the distraction on either side. 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.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A, X- #39</p> 

<p><b>40. Halt - Side-step Right – Halt</b> - 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 past the exercise sign. (Stationary exercise)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A, X- #40</p> 
<p><b>41. Halt - Call Dog Front - Finish Right</b> - 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)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A, X- #41</p> 
<p><b>42. Halt - Call Dog Front - Finish Left</b> - 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)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A, X- #42</p> 
<p><b>43. Halt - 180° Pivot Right - Halt</b> - 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)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A, X- #43</p> 

<p><b>44. Halt - 180° Pivot Left - Halt</b> - 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)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A, X- #44</p> 
<p><b>45. Halt - Down - Sit</b> - 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)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A, X- #45</p> 

## Rally Excellent Class – R.E.

### Rally Excellent A

This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Advanced (RA) Title, but are not eligible for the Rally Excellent (RE) Title.

### Rally Excellent B

This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Excellent (RE) Title and may continue to compete in this class indefinitely.

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

Rally Excellent A and B use signs 1 – 50 and must have between fifteen (15) – twenty (20) stations (start and finish not included) with no more than seven (7) stationary exercises per class. Two (2) jumps must be used in this class.

### Jumps For Advanced & Excellent

Jumps may be any jump or any combination of the jumps that may be used as standard equipment in MKA Obedience Classes i.e.: Broad Jump, Solid Jump, Bar Jump – except that 1.2 metre jumps may be used in place of 1.5 metre jumps. Jumps must not be used consecutively on the course.

### Honor Exercise

An Honor Exercise must be included in the Rally Excellent Class. 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. The handler will stand 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 team may either re-enter through the finish gate, or they may proceed directly to the Honor Station. The dog must remain in the designated position to Honor the next team's entire course. This exercise must be performed on lead. For the Honor Exercise the Honor Steward will monitor each team, record the score and immediately report it to the Table Steward.


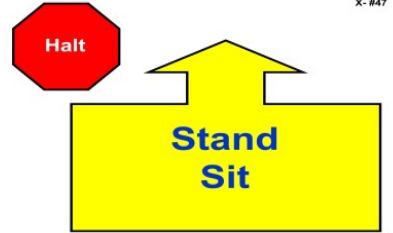
In the Honor Exercise when the dog is left in the down position, a dog lying on its side (dead dog position) does not incur a non-qualifying score but rather a 3 point deduction.




The Honor exercise is included in the total count of exercises but is not included in the count of stationary exercises.

### Rally Advanced Excellent Class Title – R.A.E.

Upon qualifying for 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 three times in both 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.

<p><b>46. Halt - Stand - Down</b> - 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)</p>	 <p>X- #46</p>
<p><b>47. Halt - Stand - Sit</b> - 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)</p>	 <p>X- #47</p>

<p><b>48. Moving Stand - Walk Around Dog</b> - 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. (Stationary exercise)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">X- #48</p> 
<p><b>49. Backup 3 Steps</b> - While heeling, the handler reverses direction walking backward at least 3step, without first stopping, then continues heeling forward. The dog moves backward with the handler and maintains heel position throughout the exercise without sitting.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">X- #49</p> 
<p><b>50. Honor</b>- This exercise shall be performed on lead. 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 2 metre lead, 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 cross the finish line. 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.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">X- #50</p> 

### Scoring (all Classes):

The following deductions shall apply:



1 point deduction for each of the following:

- Tight lead
- Dog interfering with handler's forward motion
- Poor sits, downs and stands
- Slow or resistant response
- Touching a jump, pylon or post or course distractions
- Out of position

3 point deduction for each of the following:

- Repeat of a station, maximum of two (2) re-tries allowed per run
- Pylon/post knocked over (on Figure Eight, Spiral and Serpentine) by a dog and/or handler
- Lack of control
- Loud command or intimidating signal
- Excessive barking
- Course distractions knocked over or dislodged
- Dead dog position in the Honor Exercise

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

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

- Minimum requirements not met
- Dog unmanageable, or uncontrolled barking
- Station not attempted
- Consistently tight lead
- Substantially out of Honor position
- Not completing the Honor exercise
- Dog relieving itself in the ring
- Bar knocked off the uprights of jump
- Using a jump as an aid in going over a jump
- Failure of a dog to go over a jump in the proper direction
- Handler error



Heeling from sign to sign is judged. A minimum deduction will be one point

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

## Scoring Explanations

### 1 point

- Consistent tight lead throughout the course indicates the dog is not under control
- Dog interferes with handlers forward motion, refuses to move
- Poor sits/downs/finishes
- Slow/Resistant responses - some breeds naturally take longer to respond due to their size or structure - multiple commands to complete a station
- Touching/ticking a jump, cone or post - applies to both dog and handler
- Out of position - sits/downs/finishes greater than 45 degrees out of position, as well as more than 1 metre from heel position

### 3 point

- Repeat of Station - (Maximum of two per competitor)
- Lack of control - consistent tight lead or does not remain in heel position when off lead. Dog does not follow commands nor makes any effort to attempt stations in spite of repeated attempts
- Loud or Intimidating signal - The use of loud or clearly intimidating signals by the handler towards the dog should be penalised. Physical corrections are also included in this penalty
- Excessive barking - barking should be considered excessive only when it occurs in more than a third to half of the course or when it interferes with the handler communicating with the dog
- Cone or post knocked over - cones displaced in spirals or serpentine, offset figure eight distractions moved

### 10 point

- The handler performs and IPS and does not call for a retry
- Hitting the jump - Hitting but not dislodging the bar jump, stepping on the broad jump

### 1-10 point

The following marks should be deducted based on the severity and are up to the judge's discretion.

- Lack of teamwork - Handlers not praising dog, dogs not responding to commands

- Lack of briskness - all handlers do not walk or move at the same speed and as older dogs may compete, they may also have slight restrictions on movement and this should be taken into consideration before deducting under this rule.
- Handler error - includes handler stepping on the dog when the dog is not in the way of the handler, failure to untangle a lead in the novice class, passing on the wrong side of a station, performing a station twice such as a spiral or serpentine after successfully completing it.

### **Non - Qualifying**

- Minimum requirements not met - not achieving a passing score
- Dog unmanageable or uncontrolled barking - dogs that bark more than 50% of the course must be NQ
- Clearly not under control must be NQ
- Station not attempted - Any station that is passed by and not attempted Should a handler pass by a station and prior to performing the next station, call for a retry, they can return to the missed station and attempt it with the 3 point penalty – if next station attempted they can not go back and try the missed station
- Consistent tight lead - in the Novice class to be the same as unmanageable
- Substantially out of honour position - More than a body length in either the sit or down, dogs rolling over without sitting up, dogs shuffling while sitting or dogs crawling while in the down position are all considered to be at risk of being out of honour position depending on how far they move
- Not completing the honour position - Dogs that stand during the honour when a sit or down is required. Dogs that lie down or stand when a sit is required. Dogs that sit when a down is required

### **Incorrectly Performed Station (IPS)**

An Incorrectly Performed (IP) station occurs when a team attempts a station and fails to perform all the elements making up the station in the correct sequence. However, where a team does not genuinely attempt all aspects of a station and then moves onto the next station, they will receive a non-qualifying score.

### **Stewards**

It is suggested that clubs try to have the following stewards available.

Stewarding duties are broken down into four general categories:

- Ring Steward
- Assembly Steward
- Time Steward
- Honor Steward



In Rally Novice and Rally Advanced, the club should endeavor to provide a minimum of three stewards. In the rally Excellent Classes, an additional steward is needed to monitor and record the score for the honoring dog.

Stewards should remain outside the ring, unless instructed to remain in the ring by the judge, so as not to interfere with the performance of handler and dog.

Stewards must use a tape measure or steel ruler to ensure accuracy in setting the broad jump. Stewards must arrange jumps quickly and accurately. In case of a dispute over the height of any dog, stewards shall consult the judge, who will measure the dog.

### **Ring Steward**

The primary responsibility of the ring steward is to ensure that the next dog to be judged is immediately available when the judge indicates that he is ready. As soon as the judge begins judging the dog in the ring, this steward calls the next dog and ensures the handler is at ringside before the dog in the ring has completed the rally exercise.

Dogs must be judged in catalogue order to the extent that it is practical to do so. If the dog listed next in the catalogue is not at ringside, the steward should call the next dog in order. It is the handler responsibility to be present and ready when their number is called.

The steward should report any absentees to the judge. Exhibitors may make requests for special consideration, such as asking to be judged out of catalogue order. Any request of this nature must be directed to the judge.

In Rally Advanced and Excellent Classes, it is the responsibility of the ring steward to take the lead at the start of the course and to return the lead as the team completes the "Finish" sign but before they leave the ring.

The ring steward is also responsible for the setting of jumps for dogs in the Rally Advanced and Excellent Classes.

### **Assembly Steward**

The steward will receive specific instructions from the judge as to what will be required.

The judge may ask the assembly steward to prepare and have the worksheet ready for the next dog.

The steward will ensure that the class, proper armband number is entered correctly on the sheet, as well as the jump height of the dog, if applicable. The assembly steward must check to see that the scores on the worksheet have been added correctly. If an error is detected, the steward will bring it to the attention of the judge, who will enter any corrected score and time in the judge's book.



The assembly steward will post the scores at ringside as each dog and handler team finishes the course.

### **Time Steward**

The time steward will accurately time each dog. Any tied scores are broken by time.

The steward is required to have at least one stopwatch, although it is helpful to have at least two stopwatches. The use of electronic timers is permitted.

The time steward is positioned in a place specified by the judge. When the judge gives the order “Forward”, the time steward starts the stopwatch and stops it when the dog and handler cross the Finish station. Times are reported immediately to the assembly steward after each dog completes the course.

### **Honor Steward**

The honor steward will monitor and record the score of the honoring dog in Rally Excellent.

The judge will determine where each dog and handler will be stationed according to Rally Regulations and as described in station number 50.

## **COURSE DESIGN AND SETTING THE RING (Judge’s Information)**

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.

Stationary exercises are any signs indicating a ‘Halt’ or no forward motion.

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.

Exercises using cones may require entry with the sign on the left. The sign will be placed at the first cone. Exact placements of signs are made by the Judge while laying out the course.

Except for exercises requiring entry with the sign on the left, exercises are performed near the designated signs, either directly in front, or in the front and to the left of said signs.

Course direction should be as fluid as possible to allow for a smooth flow for the handler and dog to complete.

The course must allow for all dogs of all sizes be able to manoeuvre equally. Allow space for turns and call front exercises.

When designing a course, try to allow for all three class levels and keep the same basic pattern. Try to make changing the course quicker for the steward or yourself. The addition of jumps where necessary and changing some of the stations, is usually all that is needed to go up a level. Changing or inserting additional stations can be done, if you have left adequate space in the lower level.

Always try to check with the club as to the size of ring and location of entrances prior to arrival on the day of the trial. This will determine how you design your course and you won't find yourself scrambling to realign your design to fit an existing space.

Be sure you have all the correct signs, numbers and enough holders before you start to lay out the course.

The following steps are only one way of laying out a course, but they are efficient and generally make for an easy set up:

1. On the first walk of the pattern, place holders in the approximate locations of the stations based on your course design, remembering to add a holder for Start and Finish.
2. The second time you walk the pattern, place the appropriate sign on the holder. This is where you can allocate your steward to assist you in clipping or fixing (depending on the equipment) the sign to the holder and loosely peg into the ground if this is the way they are held in place.
3. The third time you walk the pattern, adjust the signs to ensure that all directional change signs are in front of the path of flow, and all others are to the right of the handler, with the exception of the jumps if applicable to that level, which must be located on the left of where the handler will be to allow the dog to perform them. During this walk through, attach numbers if the holders are not permanently fixed with them, to each station in order. Stewards can be asked to perform this task as you will be adjusting station signs slightly as you walk through the course to maintain the flow of the course.
4. The final walk through allows you to perform each station as the teams would be during a trial. Be sure to allow proper space for stepping patterns and turning circles to allow for all size dogs. Stewards may be asked to also walk the course as it can help to have someone else 'proof' it prior to the class being judged.
5. Only when you are satisfied that the signs are in the correct position and the numbers are in proper order, should you call for the walk through for those in that class. Please refer to the rule book for suggestions as to numbers permitted

during walk through at any given time, as well as to accommodate larger classes where multiple walk throughs might be necessary.

## Ring Procedure

On the Steward's call of the dog's catalogue number, the Handler will enter the Ring with the dog on lead and stand at the "Start Station". In Exercises that require a dog to be off-lead, the lead will be taken off and handed to the Steward. All dogs must leave the Ring on a lead.

*Unless otherwise specified in these Rules, Handlers may encourage their dog with verbal praise and patting.*

While praise, encouragement and patting are allowed, dogs should remain under control.

COMMANDS: 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.

JUDGES ORDERS: The Judge's orders will be, "Are you ready" followed by, "Forward." After the Judge's "Forward" order, the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered exercises correctly.

TIMING: 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 tied scores, the dog and Handler completing the course in the least amount of time will receive the higher placement.

JUDGING CHARTS: A properly compiled and separate Class Judging Chart must be provided for each Judge officiating at a Trial. Individual judging sheets with handler, exhibit no & dogs name are also needed.

JUMPS - will be required in Advanced and Excellent classes if included in the course. The jumps used in obedience & agility i.e. - Solid/Bar/Broad are suitable.

## HINTS FOR COMPETITORS:

1. Read and understand the Rules, especially the descriptions of the stations. The judge is usually happy to answer questions but it is not their job to tell you how to do each station.
2. Practice the stations and do some mock courses before you enter.
3. On Trial day: Walk the course at least three times.

The First time – familiarise yourself with the layout of the course. Look for the flow of the numbers, the place in which each station is to be performed and the entry to spirals and weaves. Also think about the path you will need to take between stations.

The Second time – walk the course as if you had your dog with you. Do each of the stations exactly as you would do it with your dog at heel.

The Third time – walk the course in a similar way to the first, just to make sure you know exactly what you have to do.

4. When you enter the ring, go to the Start sign, settle your dog and wait (your dog doesn't necessarily have to be in any particular position – e.g. sitting at heel – but must be under control).
5. When the judge says “Are you ready?” answer “Yes” (if you and your dog ARE ready) and, when the Judge says “Forward”, take a deep breath and start.
6. If you realise you have performed a station incorrectly, raise your arm and call RETRY. Then move back several paces and attempt the station again. You are allowed two retries for the course (which can both be on the same station). Each retry costs you 3 points along with any other deductions for tight lead etc., but an Improperly Performed Station will cost 10 points. (It is a good idea to practice calling for a retry when you are doing mock courses.)
7. When you have finished the course, say Thank You to the Judge and move out of the ring. If you want to know your score, it will be available at the stewards' table outside the ring.
8. Don't forget to encourage your dog as you do the course. Use your voice to keep your dog's attention on you especially in the “cone” exercises. Make the experience a happy one for both your dog and you.

***Many thanks to Mrs. Valeta Pethrick.***