

Oklahoma 4-H RALLY REGULATIONS

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Dog Ownership Guidelines

- Dogs in the 4-H training program shall be owned by the 4-H member and his/her immediate family; (i.e. father, mother, brother, sister, grandparents)
- Dogs must be six months of age before competition.
- It is expected that only the 4-H member is to do the actual training and provide daily care (brushing, combing, feeding and exercising) for their dog at all times possible.

Health Requirements

- All dogs participating in 4-H events, whether competition or local training events, must have a Certificate of Vaccination, signed by a licensed, accredited veterinarian indicating the dog is current on Rabies, Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvo Virus, Leptospirosis, and Bordetella (Kennel Cough).
- The 4-H 671 Certificate along with a signed Certificate of Vaccination for any dog participating in a 4-H event must be turned into the 4-H Adult volunteer leaders or county extension educator before or at the first training session or competition event. If this document is not submitted, your dog may not participate until the proper veterinarian record is received.
- Forms can be found on _____.

Oklahoma 4-H RALLY

Rally Virtual Program

The Oklahoma Virtual Rally program allows youth to participate in 4-H rally events if they are not offered locally, or if their dog may be uncomfortable in traditional dog show environments. Youth may still progress in levels and receive Oklahoma 4-H titles on their dog.

The Rally Foundation, Pre-Novice, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Excellent classes will be available for virtual participation.

The competitor will set up a pre-designed rally course, video record the handler and dog's performance. New courses will be available every 3 months.

Upload the video to Youtube with an unlisted link.

Enter the appropriate class through Z suites. Each submitted run will have an entry fee of \$10.

Oklahoma 4-H will assign a pre-approved volunteer to review and score the team's Rally performance.

Youth will receive their score and feedback for their run.

The rally virtual program is open to all dogs six months of age and older. Dogs entered in the Intermediate class must have earned the Rally Novice (RN) title. Dogs in Advanced must have received their Intermediate Title and dogs in Excellent must receive their Advanced title. Qualifying (achieving a score of 70 or above) in the Excellent class three times will result in the dog earning the Excellent title.

The qualifying scores and titles earned virtually are the same as those earned at in-person events. You may earn a title by qualifying at either or both types of events.

There are pre-designed courses for each level of competition published on the Oklahoma 4-H website. New courses will be available every 3 months. The exhibitor will setup the course according to the instructions

provided. Video the performance, and upload the video to their personal YouTube account, set the required YouTube viewing options, and submit the video link with the online entry form and pay the fee electronically to Oklahoma 4-H through Z suites.

What is rally?

- Rally trials demonstrate the dog has been trained to behave in the home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs. Rally combines the faster pace of agility with exercises found in traditional obedience. Scoring is more lenient than that of traditional obedience.
- The 4-H member and dog complete a course designed by the rally judge. It will consist of posted signs from a prescribed list of approved signs. The signs provide instructions on the next skill to be performed, via words, arrows, colors and geometric shapes.
- The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at a brisk pace through a course of designated signs. Each of these signs provides instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed. The dog and handler move continuously throughout the course with the dog under control at the handler's left side.
- There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during the numbered exercises and between the exercise signs; however, perfect "heel position" is not required. Any faults in traditional obedience that would be evaluated and scored as a one point deduction or more should be scored the same in Rally, unless otherwise mentioned in the Oklahoma 4-H Dog Rally Rules and Guidelines.
- After the judge's "Forward" order, the handler and dog is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered signs correctly.
- Unless otherwise specified in these rules and guidelines, 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 (except where allowed by station) or make any physical corrections. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands or intimidating signals will be penalized.
- Rally provides an excellent introduction to training your dog for both new dogs and handlers, and can provide a way to introduce teams to dog sports.
- Rally promotes fun, enjoyment and teamwork for dogs and handlers at all levels of competition. Rally is a sport, and all participants should be guided by the principals of good sportsmanship both in and out of the ring.

Dogs that have previously been trained

- 4-H'ers may train and show dogs that have been previously trained and/or shown by other family members or other 4-H members. However, they will be required to begin training at the appropriate level.
 - A dog that has previously been trained through Novice Obedience in 4-H must start at Rally Novice.
 - A dog that has previously been trained through Open Obedience in 4-H must enter Rally no lower than Advanced.
- 4-H'ers should be aware that upon a trainer's or Program Coordinator's discretion they may be required to move to a more advanced class based on prior experience and training.

Earning rally titles outside of 4-H

- Any dog earning a Rally title outside of 4-H must compete in the level above if the title is earned on or before May 15 of the current 4-H year (i.e., a dog with an AKC Rally Novice title may not compete in 4-

H Foundations, Pre-Novice or Novice Rally). If a title is earned on May 16 or later of the current 4-H year, the dog may remain in the 4-H Rally Level for the remainder of the 4-H year.

- Any dog that has earned a leg towards their Rally Novice Title, or equivalent, will be ineligible for 4-H Foundations and Pre-Novice regardless of the date the leg was earned. Any dog that has earned a leg towards their Rally Advanced Title, or equivalent, will be ineligible for Intermediate regardless of the date the leg was earned. Any dog that has earned a leg towards its Rally Excellent Title, or equivalent, must compete in 4-H Rally Excellent.

Equipment rules

1. No prong collars or electric training devices are allowed in the ring or on the competition site.
2. Dogs must wear a well-fitting plain buckle/flat collar or traditional slip collar. Dogs in Foundations or Pre-Novice have the option to compete in a head halter or a front hook harness.
3. Leashes shall be a minimum of four feet and a maximum of 6 feet in length. Leashes may be leather, cotton or nylon. All dogs must be on leash when present on the event site. Dogs will be taken in and out of the ring on leash.
4. Dogs whose hair surrounding the eyes, ears or beard interferes with their performance may have their hair tied back with elastic bands or small plain barrettes or in the manner as they are normally shown in the breed ring.
5. Food, toys or other training aids are not allowed in the Rally ring. Handlers are not permitted to wear such things as waist packs/pouches or any item that appears to be a training device or aid. Handlers who carry or offer food in the ring must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.
6. Clothing requirements: No open-toed shoes should be worn while competing.

Rally Ring Sizes and Conditions

1. The rings shall be at least 40 x 50 feet, but larger is recommended (40 x 80 or 50 x 60 feet). The floor must have firm, safe footing, using rubber or similar non-slip material at least 4 feet wide for the takeoffs and landings of all jumps, unless the judge feels the surface does not require it.
2. At an outdoor show or trial, the ground should be clean, safe, and level. Any grass should be cut short. If inclement weather at an outdoor trial necessitates the judging of rally under shelter, the requirements as to ring size may be waived.
3. The judge's table and chairs will be of such size and location so as not to interfere with the dog and handler's performance while in the ring.
4. Rings should be fenced in a way to discourage the exit of the dog (ie breed ring gating, not just one strip of tape).
5. Dogs should not be allowed in the ring prior to judging.
6. A club may designate a confined warm-up area, physically defined by ropes or ring gates. If offered, it must not be disruptive to any dog or person. The area should be always monitored.
7. Warm-ups should be performed as far from the rally rings as is reasonably possible and must not be disruptive to any dog or person.
8. Placement of Signs. Signs should be placed to the right of the handler's path unless otherwise stated. Exact placement of signs will be made by the judge while walking the course along the path that will be taken by the handlers.

Equipment needed for Rally trials

1. Timers: A timer (hand held stopwatch is fine) must be present. Time will begin after the team has passed the start sign and will stop after the team has passed the finish sign.
2. Jumps are only needed at Advanced and Excellent levels
3. Jumps: Jumps may be any jumps used as standard equipment in obedience or agility classes.
 - a. Broad jump - will consist of three telescoping hurdles, each approximately 8 inches wide. The largest hurdle will measure about 4 feet 10 inches long (if from a 5-foot set) and about 5 inches at the highest point. In the ring, broad jump hurdles will be arranged in order of size from

smallest to largest. They will be evenly spaced, covering a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump set for each dog. Three hurdles will be used for a jump of 32 inches, two hurdles for a jump of 16 or 24 inches, and one hurdle will be used for a jump of 8 inches. When decreasing the number of hurdles in the jump, the highest hurdle will be removed first.

- b. Bar jump - has two uprights which are constructed to support only a striped bar which is set at the dog's required jump height. The bar needs to be placed so it is displaceable from either direction. The jump may be 4 or 5 feet in width.
 - c. High jump (panel jump) - consists of two uprights and solid boards of varying widths that combine to make each dog's required jump height.
4. The dog's jump height must be included on the entry form.

Height of Dog at Withers	Height to be Jumped
Less than 10 inches	4 inches
10 inches to less than 15 inches	8 inches
15 inches to less than 20 inches	12 inches
20 inches and over	16 inches

Rules for judging

1. The handler's arms need not be maintained in any position. Handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and/or signals using one or both arms, clap their hands, pat their legs or use any verbal means of encouragement. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands, intimidating signals, touching the dog, or any physical corrections will be penalized.
2. Heel Position. The dog is at the handler's left side, facing the same direction the handler is facing; the dog's body is within the area of the handler's left hip; and the dog should be close to, but not crowding its handler so that the handler has freedom of motion at all times.
3. Scoring for all levels is based on a maximum score of 100 points. The following deductions shall apply:
 - a. 1 Point Deduction for the following:
 - i. Tight leash
 - ii. Dog interfering with handler
 - iii. Poor sits
 - iv. Slow, delay, or resistance to respond
 - v. Touching or ticking a jump, pylon, post or person
 - vi. Out of position
 - b. 3 Point Deduction for the Following:
 - i. Repeat of a station (maximum of 2 re-tries allowed) points are deducted for each re-try
 - ii. Pylon/post knocked over on Figure Eight, Spiral, and Serpentine
 - iii. Loud command or intimidating signal
 - iv. Excessive barking (3 or more consecutive barks); points are deducted per occurrence
 - v. Hitting the jump
 - vi. Patting/clapping in Excellent – per occurrence
 - c. 10 Point Deduction for the Following
 - i. Incorrectly performed station**
 - ii. Failure to complete Sit Stay Exercise (IP)-No retries allowed
 - iii. Failure of dog to go over the jump properly on the first attempt (IP)
 - iv. No retries allowed
 - v. Luring/Pleading with dog
 - vi. Lack of natural Manner
 - vii. Taking more than 4 minutes to complete the course
 - d. Up to 30 Point Deductions for the following:
 - i. Lack of control
 - ii. Lack of teamwork
 - iii. Lack of briskness

- iv. Handler error*
- e. 30 Point Deductions for the following:
 - i. Minimum requirements not met
 - ii. Dog unmanageable
 - iii. Uncontrolled barking – barking the entire course
 - iv. Constant tight lead
 - v. Fouling the ring
 - vi. Station not attempted by handler
 - vii. More than 6 Minutes in the course
 - viii. Excused with or without a White Ribbon
 - ix. Disciplining in the ring
 - x. Disqualified
- f. The maximum number of points deducted per sign is 10.
 - i. **Incorrectly performed (IP) - Occurs when a team attempts a sign and fails to perform the principal parts of the station on the first attempt.
 - ii. Retrying a sign - The handler may choose to retry the sign twice for a correct performance, accepting the mandatory 3 point deduction for the retry. The handler must signal to the judge “retry” then reapproach the station and complete it. The 3 point penalty will be deducted for each retry attempt.
- g. *Handler errors can be assessed from 1 to 10 points up to the maximum point deduction.
- h. Halt exercise - once a handler has stopped, they can not move their feet to assist a dog without incurring a handler error.
- i. Rally will be judged using the Danish system.
 - i. Blue – 85-100
 - ii. Red – 70-84
 - iii. White – 69 and under
- j. To move up to the next level, dog and handler teams must have achieved 1 blue or two red awards in that class.

Disciplining in the ring

- A 4-H'er may not discipline his or her dog in the Rally ring. If a loud command is given in the Rally ring, a 3-point penalty will be assessed. Any youth who verbally abuses his or her dog in the Rally ring will be given a 30-point penalty. Point deductions may be made for corrections made during any exercise, with the amount of the penalty depending on the severity and amount of corrections. The judge must immediately report any abuse of a dog in the ring to the show committee.

Grounds for Dismissal

- The Event Committee will investigate any report of intensive training, abuse, or severe disciplining of dogs on the grounds or premises of an Oklahoma 4-H dog show, trial or match. Any youth seen hitting, kicking, or abusing their dog anywhere on the show grounds will be excused from the show, will be asked to leave, and will forfeit all awards.
- The judge must disqualify any dog that attempts to attack any person in the ring and the dog must be immediately excused. The owner of any dog that has been excused on two occasions for attacking or attempting to attack another dog will be notified that the dog is no longer eligible to be shown in any Oklahoma 4-H event.

Unfit to compete

1. Lameness: A dog that is lame in the ring at any rally trial may not compete in that class. Lameness is defined as any irregularity of locomotion. The judge must determine, without a veterinarian's opinion, whether a dog is lame.

2. Sickness/parasites: The judge must excuse from the class as “unfit to compete” any dog that demonstrates sickness, such as vomiting in the ring or has evidence of parasites. No dog will be eligible to compete in a rally trial if it is taped, stitched or bandaged in any way or if it has anything attached to it for medical or corrective purposes. Such a dog must be immediately excused and may not be judged under any circumstances.
3. The judge must disqualify any dog that is not under its handler’s control and any handler who willfully interferes with another competitor or that competitor’s dog.

Dogs that May Not Compete

- No dog under six months of age may compete.
- Females in season are not allowed to compete with the exception of the state 4-H dog Show. Females in season may be allowed to compete at the state show only, but must wear britches while on the premises. They will be judged at the end of the event after all other judging has concluded.

General rally regulations

- Maximum course time – each handler is allowed 4 minutes for maximum course time. If a team has not concluded at the conclusion of 4 minutes, they will receive a time penalty.
- Ties: If participant’s scores are tied, they will be broken on time, with the fastest time winning.
- All dogs must be kept on a leash except when in the rally ring, warm-up ring or exercise area and must be brought into and taken out of the ring on leash. Leashes must be clipped to the collar when dogs are brought into the ring for judging and awards.
- At the listed start time for the class, a walkthrough of up to 10 minutes will be allowed for handlers without their dogs and judging of the class will follow.
- The judge must remain in the ring during the walkthrough but will not brief the handlers.
- Timing will begin when the judge gives the order “Forward” and will end when the dog and handler cross the Finish sign.

Rally Classes available

- Foundation
- Pre-Novice
- Novice
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Excellent
- In the Pre-Novice, Novice and Intermediate classes, exercises are performed on leash, and there are no jumps. The judge will give the order for the handler to begin the course. The ring and gate stewards should remain outside the ring but stay alert to any possible problems and be ready to follow whatever instructions the judge may give.
- In Rally Novice, Intermediate and Advanced classes, handlers can pat their legs or clap their hands to encourage the dog. In Rally Excellent, this is not allowed.
- In Rally Excellent, 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 position at any time. Handlers may not touch their dog or make any physical corrections without penalty.

Description of rally classes available

Foundations

1. This is for the handler/dog team that would compete at the Foundation Level of 4-H Obedience (if offered).
2. Any dog with a leg towards a Rally Novice title is ineligible for this level

3. Any dog and handler competing in Beginner Obedience (if offered) is ineligible for this level
4. Performed on leash
5. May wear a traditional slip collar, well-fitting plain buckle collar, a head halter, or a front-clip harness
6. Must move to Pre-Novice next year with the same dog no matter color of ribbon earned.
7. Must include 6-8 signs, with 1-2 stationary signs:
 - a. Halt-Sit
 - b. Right Turn
 - c. Left Turn
 - d. About Turn-Right
 - e. About "U" Turn
 - f. 360° Right
 - g. 360° Left
 - h. Slow Pace
 - i. Fast Pace
 - j. Normal Pace
 - k. Figure 8-No Distractions
 - l. Call Front-Back to Dog (May only be used in Foundation)

Pre-Novice

1. Must have 8-12 signs (start and finish not included)
2. Minimum of 2 and maximum of 3 stationary signs per class.
3. No jumps are allowed in this class.
4. For the Handler/Dog team that would compete in Beginner 4-H Obedience; a dog that has earned a leg toward any Rally Novice title (or equivalent) is not eligible to compete in this class
5. Any dog with a leg towards a Rally Novice title is ineligible for this level
6. Performed on leash
7. May wear a traditional slip collar, well-fitting plain buckle collar, or a head halter
8. Must earn a blue ribbon or two red ribbons in Pre-Novice to advance to the next level
9. Must include 8-12 signs, with 2 - 3 stationary signs.
10. May include any signs in Foundation (except 35A) plus any of the following Pre-Novice signs:
 - a. Halt-Sit-Down
 - a. Call Dog Front-Finish Any Direction (may only be used in Pre-Novice and Novice)
 - b. Call Dog Front-Finish Any Direction-Halt (may only be used in Pre-Novice and Novice)
 - k. Down and Stop
 - l. Halt and Walk Around Dog
 - m. Halt-Down-Walk Around Dog
 - n. Call Front-Return to Heel

Novice

1. All exercises are judged on leash
2. Must have 10-15 signs (Start and Finish are not included)
3. Minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) stationary signs per class.
4. Minimum of 3 Novice signs.
5. Must earn a blue ribbon or two red ribbons in Novice to advance to the next level.
6. There are no jumps.
7. May include any signs in Foundation (except 35A) and Pre-Novice, plus any of the following Novice signs:
 - a. *270° Right
 - b. *270° Left
 - c. Moving Side Step
 - d. Spiral Right Dog Outside
 - e. Spiral Left Dog Inside

- f. Straight Figure 8 Weave Twice
- g. Serpentine Weave Once
- h. Halt-1, 2, 3 Step Forward
- i. Call Front-1, 2, 3 Step Backwards
- j. Halt-Fast forward from Sit
- k. Left About Turn
- l. Halt-Left Turn-Forward
- m. Halt-Right Turn-Forward
- n. Halt-Slow Forward from Sit

Rally intermediate requirements.

1. Not open to any dog with a Rally Advanced title
2. All signs are judged on leash
3. Must earn a blue ribbon or two red ribbons in Intermediate to advance to the next level.
4. Must have 12-17 signs (Start and Finish not included)
5. Minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) stationary signs
6. Minimum of three (3) Intermediate level signs
7. There are no jumps in this class.
8. May include any signs from Foundation (except 35A), Pre-Novice (except 13A and 15A) and Novice; plus any of the following Pre-Advanced signs:
 - a. Call Dog Front-Finish Right-Forward
 - b. Call Dog Front-Finish Left-Forward
 - c. Call Dog Front-Finish Right-Halt
 - d. Call Dog Front-Finish Left-Halt
 - e. Halt-About Turn Right and Forward
 - f. Halt-About "U" Turn and Forward
 - g. Halt-Turn Right One Step-Call to Heel- Halt
 - h. Halt-Stand Dog-Walk Around Dog
 - i. Halt-90° Pivot Right-Halt
 - j. Halt-90° Pivot Left-Halt
 - k. Offset Figure 8
 - l. Halt-Side-Step Right-Halt

Rally Advanced requirements

1. Any dog with a Rally advanced title is ineligible to compete in this level
2. A 4-H'er can compete in Advanced until they earned three blue ribbons with the same dog. However, if a 4-H'er decides to compete in Excellent he/she may not move back to Advanced.
3. All signs are judged off leash
4. Must have between 12 – 17 stations (Start and Finish not included)
5. Minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) stationary exercises per class.
6. Minimum of three Advanced level signs
7. One required jump per class.
8. May include any signs in Foundation (except 35A), Pre-Novice (except 13A and 15A), Novice, or Pre-Advanced, plus any of the following Advanced signs:
 - a. *Send Over Jump-Handler Passes By
 - b. Halt-Call Dog Front-Finish Right
 - c. Halt-Call Dog Front-Finish Left
 - d. Halt-180° Pivot Right-Halt
 - e. Halt-180° Pivot Left-Halt
 - f. Halt-Down-Sit
 - g. Halt-Stand
 - h. Halt-Pivot Right-Forward

- i. Halt-Pivot Left-Forward
- j. Halt-Leave Dog-2 Steps-Call to Heel-Forward

Rally Excellent Requirements

1. A 4-H'er may participate in this level with the same dog indefinitely.
2. All signs are judged off leash
3. Must have between 15 and 20 stations (Start, Finish and Call marker not included)
4. Minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) stationary exercises
5. Dog is required to jump twice utilizing one or two jumps
6. Minimum of two (2) Advanced level stations
7. Minimum of three (3) excellent level stations
8. Two (2) required jumps
9. Sit Stay sign
10. In Rally Excellent, handlers are not allowed to pat their legs or clap their hand to encourage the dog.
11. May include any sign from Foundation (except 35A), Pre-Novice (except 13A and 15A), Novice, Pre-Advanced, and Advanced, plus any of the following Excellent signs
 - a. Halt-Stand-Down
 - b. Halt-Stand-Sit
 - c. Moving Stand-Walk Around Dog
 - d. Moving Down-Walk Around Dog
 - e. Backup 3 Steps
 - f. Down while Heeling
 - g. Stand while Heeling
 - h. Stand-Leave Dog-Sit Dog-Call Front-Finish
 - i. Stand-Leave Dog-Down Dog-Call Front-Finish
 - j. Send to Jump
 - k. Double Left About Turn
 - l. Sit Stay
 - m. Call
12. Sit Stay Exercise (Sign #298): The judge will designate the area or person in charge of the leash prior to the excellent walk-through. All exhibitors must be informed of where they need to go to retrieve their leash or from whom during the walkthrough. Immediately following the Finish Sign, the handler and dog will go to the Sit Stay sign. The handler will then walk forward at least fifteen (15) feet, retrieve the leash from any of the following: gate steward, judge, or designated area next to the ring exit, and return the heel position by walking around and behind the dog. The judge will order "Exercise Finished" at which time the judging of the Sit Stay Exercise will be complete. The handler will then attach the leash and exit the ring. The Sit Stay Exercise is not considered to be one of the stationary exercises on the course.

Rally Signs and Equipment

- The designated wording and symbols must be used for all Rally signs. Signs must be a minimum of 8½ by 11 inches and a maximum of 11 by 17 inches. Colors used are optional.
- Thirty sign holders are required. Secure anchors for both the signs and the holders should be available when weather conditions require them. Numbers 1-20, approximately 3 inches high, must be provided.
- At least twelve cones must be made available for the various cone signs.

Judging

1. Interference and Double Handling. A judge who is aware of any assistance, interference, or attempts to control a dog from outside the ring must act promptly to stop such double handling or interference and must penalize the dog substantially. If the judge feels the circumstances warrant, the dog will receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

2. Copies of the sheets in the official judge's book will be made available for examination by handlers immediately after the ribbons have been awarded in each class.
3. The judge must disqualify any dog that attacks or attempts to attack any person in the ring and immediately excuse them from the grounds. Any dog that attacks another dog or that appears dangerous to other dogs must be excused from the ring.

Scoring

1. The lists of faults are not intended to be complete, but minimum penalties are specified for most of the more common and serious faults. There is no maximum limit on penalties. A dog that makes none of the errors listed may still receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score for other reasons.
2. Misbehavior. The handler is required to enter and exit the ring with the dog under control and without jumping, pulling or tugging on the leash. Any display of fear or nervousness by the dog must be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior, whether it occurs during or between a sign or before or after judging. The penalty for misbehavior will be deducted from the total score. The judge may release the dog from further competition in the class. A dog must be released for uncontrolled behavior such as excessive barking or running away from its handler.
3. If a dog is working smartly and continuously but goes outside a ring boundary while performing (as opposed to a dog that bolts out of the ring), the penalty, if any, is left to the discretion of the judge. A dog who leaves its handler to leave the ring, who is not responding to its handler, and/or the stewards have blocked the dog to keep it in the ring, must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score and must be released from the ring.
4. An incorrectly performed (IP) sign is an automatic 10-point deduction. An incorrectly performed (IP) sign occurs when a team attempts a sign and fails to perform the principal parts of the sign as described on the first attempt. Except for all jumps and the sit stay, the handler may choose to retry the sign once, for a correct performance, accepting the mandatory 3-point deduction for the retry of the sign. The sign is considered an IP if the handler chooses not to retry or fails to perform the sign correctly on the second attempt.
5. Handler errors may be assessed from 1 to 10 points up to and including non-qualifying. Handler errors can be assessed at any sign or during movement between signs on a course. Once a handler has stopped on any halt sign the handler cannot move their feet to assist a dog without incurring a handler error.
6. 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 these Regulations.

Physically Challenged Handlers.

1. It is perfectly permissible for handlers with physical challenges to compete, provided they can do so under their own power with or without mechanical assistance, i.e., a wheelchair (self-propelled, electric, etc.), crutches, or a cane.
2. Judges may modify specific requirements of these regulations so that handlers with physical challenges may compete. Such handlers must be able to move around the ring without physical assistance or guidance from another person. However, for a vision impaired handler, on the judge's instructions, someone may read the signs and communicate to the handler the dog's performance at each sign.
3. Dogs handled by such handlers will be required to perform all parts of all signs as described in these regulations and will be penalized for failure to perform any part of a sign.

Course Design

Course Design and Setting the Course. Course Design is important to the sport. A rally course should be designed to be fun, interesting, and enjoyable for the exhibitor, dog and spectators. Courses should provide sufficient challenge without being overly complicated and designed to be completed by the average team in less than two minutes. This may vary slightly depending on the level. When designing courses, remember

Rally is a skill-building class for all other events and should provide the dog and handler the ability to develop and master a variety of skills.

Control and teamwork is best evaluated with courses that flow. The rally judge should consider the dog and handler's path when designing and setting the course. Grouping stationary signs together causes a course to be choppy and tight while using multiple circular turns in the same direction may cause dizziness.

Signs requiring specific angles of performance must be used to allow those angles to be executed correctly. Courses should be laid out in a clear and straightforward manner so that a handler who misses the walk through has a reasonable chance of qualifying by following the numbered signs.

Signs using the pylons may share one or more pylons except for the Offset Figure 8. All signs with a "Fast" or "Slow" must be followed by a "Normal" except the "Slow" may be used as the last sign. Stationary signs are any stated as such in the descriptions. The Sit Stay sign is not to be considered one of the required stationary course signs and must not be in the path of the course.

Plan to use separate entrance and exit gates to allow for better traffic flow and time management. Adequate space must be allowed for all sizes of dogs to perform the signs properly inside the ring including the Start, Finish and Sit Stay signs.

Sign holders or signs will be clearly and sequentially numbered on the course. Numbers will not be used for the Start, Finish, Call and Directional Arrows or the duplicate signs used for 206-209, 311, 317 and 318.

When using the Broad Jump, judges may use four corner markers if they are available. The corner markers should be at least 1-inch wide and at least 36 inches high. They may be striped or decorated. If used the corner markers may be freestanding or attached. They should be placed or attached to the side of the first and last hurdle.

Volunteer Positions for a successful Rally Event

Having adequate help can ensure that a 4-H Dog Rally event runs smoothly. It is encouraged to have at least two volunteers/stewards to assist with each class, beyond the judge.

Ring stewards are a vital key to a successful show. Ring stewards should report for duty no later than one-half (½) hour prior to the start of the show, to ensure that there is enough time to receive instruction from the judge.

The judge has sole responsibility for their ring until their assignments are completed. Stewards are provided to assist but may act only on the judge's instructions. Stewards must not give information to handlers except when the judge tells them to do so.

The stewards that are needed for a Rally show are:

Gate Steward

- a. Distribute armbands
- b. Check to ensure that the armband number given to the exhibitor corresponds to the dog's name and number in the catalog.
- c. If exhibitors request to be judged out of order due to conflicts, direct them to the judge; the steward should report any absences to the judge and Table Steward.
- d. For Advanced and Excellent, verify that the jump height is listed correctly for each dog.
- e. See that the jump height is correctly set by the Ring Steward for each dog in the Advanced and Excellent Classes before the dog enters the ring.
- f. Ensure that dogs are judged in catalog order but not to the extent of holding up judging.
- g. Ensure handlers and dogs do not enter the ring until the judge so indicates.
- h. Ensure that the next dog to be judged is immediately available. As soon as the judge begins judging the dog in the ring, the steward calls the next dog and ensures that the handler is ring side.
- i. If the next dog is not available, the steward should not hesitate to call the next dog in order.

- j. As needed, ensure that the leash is returned to the handler as the dog and handler complete the course, and that the dog is on leash when the team leaves the ring.
- k. Be aware of any problems with the dogs on course and be ready to follow instructions given by the judge.
- l. Any other duties as assigned by the judge

Table Steward

- a. Check that the class, proper armband number and breed of dog are entered correctly on the worksheet.
- b. Check that the scores on the worksheet have been added correctly.
- c. Make sure that scores from the worksheets and the times have been correctly transferred to the judge's book. After doing so, the Table Steward will initial the judge's worksheet.
- d. Make sure that the judge is informed of any error on the worksheet, and after being corrected by the judge, the score and time of the dog are entered into the judge's book correctly.
- e. Make sure that time is listed in the judge's book as minutes, seconds and hundredths.
- f. Make sure that each dog's unofficial score is posted at or near ringside after the dog finishes the course.
- g. Make sure that the judge's worksheets are not displayed or exhibited to any other person at the event, unless specifically directed to do so by the judge.
- h. Make sure that all trophies and ribbons are available at the conclusion of each class.

Ring Steward

- a. Assist in setting up the rally courses initially and from class to class as needed.
- b. Assist in the posting of unofficial scores if needed by the Rally Table Steward.
- c. Be aware of any problems with the dogs on the course and be ready to follow instructions given by the judge.
- d. Make sure that jumps in the Rally Advanced and Excellent Classes are set at the correct jump height for each dog entered in the classes.
- e. Assist with the dog's leash in the Rally Pre-Advanced, Advanced and Excellent Classes, making sure that the leash is returned to the handler and that the dog is on leash before leaving the Pre-Advanced, Advanced or Excellent Class ring.
- f. Perform any other duties as assigned by the judge.

Time Steward

- a. Time steward is positioned as specified by the judge prior to the running of each dog on the course. The timing of a run starts when the judge says "Forward," and the time of the run ends when both the dog and handler cross/pass the Finish Station. The same person should time the entire class.
- b. The time of each dog is immediately reported to the Table Steward after each dog completes the course.
- c. The time reported is in minutes, seconds and hundredths.
- d. If there is a malfunction in the timing device when a dog is running the course, the Timing Steward will report the malfunction to the judge and the Table Steward immediately after the dog and handler crosses the Finish Station.

Rally Signs and Descriptions

- Signs indicating a change in direction should be placed directly in front of the team. Signs requiring the handler and dog to sidestep to the right will be placed in the team's initial path. Pylon signs may be placed on the first pylon. The sign for #103 Send over Jump may be placed on the jump or to the right

of the handler's path. The duplicate signs made available for 206, 207, 208, 209, 311, 317 and 318, will be paired with the sign holder on the backside of the original sign.

- Performance of the sign must be near the designated sign unless otherwise stated in these Regulations. The team may need to drift to approach the next sign correctly.
- The Principal Parts are boldface and underlined.
- Signs with *astericks may be used more than once on course. Performance of the sign must be near the designated sign unless otherwise stated in these Regulations. The team may need to drift to approach the next sign correctly. #210 - Send to Jump: The sign will be placed at least 10 feet before the jump and 3 feet away from the path to the jump. The sign after will be set at least 3 feet away from the path after the jump.
- #298 – Sit Stay: The judge will designate placement of the leash and must inform the handlers during the Excellent walkthrough.
- Immediately following the Finish sign the handler and dog will go to the Sit Stay sign. The dog must sit; the handler may command and/or signal the dog to stay. The handler will then walk forward at least fifteen
- (15) feet to get the leash and return to heel position by walking around behind the dog. The judge will order "Exercise Finished," at which time the judging of the Sit Stay sign will be complete. The handler will then attach the leash and exit the ring. The Sit Stay is not considered one of the stationary signs on the course.

Rally Signs with Descriptors

Complete Set of Rally Signs

Free resources

- K9rally – an app available for iPhones and Android which feature video examples of all rally signs
- Oklahoma 4-H Virtual Dog Project
- Oklahoma 4-H recognizes that not all dogs may be suitable for competition environments due to reactivity, stress, anxiety etc. However, these dogs will still benefit from training and relationship building with the 4-H member. The 4-H member will also be able to test and improve their training skills while participating in a home environment. Members may still advance through similar competition levels by submitting recorded videos to the 4-H office.