



Royal Kennel Club

# Rally Regulations

2026

## **Kennel Club Regulation Booklets**

This is one of a series of booklets designed to present the Regulations in a more accessible form. The complete set of Rules & Regulations is of course still available within the Royal Kennel Club Year Book.

There are booklets available for Breed Shows, Obedience Shows, Agility Shows, Working Trials and Bloodhound Trials, Heelwork to Music, Field Trials and Rally. Whilst including all the relevant regulations also included is an extract from the B Regulations on the requirements of dog registration.

# ROYAL KENNEL CLUB RALLY REGULATIONS

*As at 1st January 2026*

## 1. Welfare of Dogs.

An exhibitor (or competitor) whose dog is entered at a Royal Kennel Club licensed event should take all reasonable steps to ensure the needs of their dog(s) are met, and should not knowingly put their dogs' health and welfare at risk by any action, default, omission or otherwise. A breach of this Regulation may be referred to the Board for disciplinary action under Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations. The use of pinch collars, electronic shock collars, or prong collars, is not permitted at any Rally event licensed by the Royal Kennel Club. This shall apply at the venue and within the precincts of the competition.

## 2. Eligibility.

- a. Dogs entered for these competitions must be registered at the Royal Kennel Club in accordance with Royal Kennel Club Regulations for Classification and Registration [B].
- b. Only dogs of six calendar months of age and over on the first day of the competition are eligible to take part in Level 1, 2, or 3 classes. Only dogs of 12 calendar months of age and over on the first day of the competition are eligible to take part in Level 4 or higher classes or special classes which incorporate jumps or similar exercises. Only dogs of 7 years of age and over on the first day of the competition are eligible to take part in the Veteran class.
- c. Competition hosts may accept entries not for competition at their discretion, and dogs 12 weeks and over on the first day of the competition are eligible to enter Not for Competition.
- d. If, in the opinion of the Board, a dog is of a savage disposition it shall be ineligible for entry for any event held under Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations.
- e. Persons disqualified or suspended under Royal Kennel Club Rules are not permitted to take part in any event recognised by the Royal Kennel Club.
- f. No activity shall be conducted which permits, encourages or develops aggression in a dog.

## 3. Code of Conduct.

Those taking part in Royal Kennel Club licensed/approved events are expected to maintain and abide by the highest standards, in accordance with Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and appropriate Codes of Conduct as published from time to time.

## 4. Licensed Rally Competitions.

Licensed competitions held under Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations are those held under licence granted by the Board of the Royal Kennel Club and are:

- a. Open Rally competitions - Open to all competitors.
- b. Limited Rally competitions - Where entry is limited to-
  - (1) Members of the competition society
  - (2) Competitors resident within a specific area

- (3) Specific Breeds
- (4) By numbers (such numbers to be stipulated in the schedule)
- (5) Or otherwise subject to approval of the Board of the Royal Kennel Club.

## **5. Classes at Rally competitions.**

- a. An Open Rally competition shall comprise at least one standard competition class as set out in Annex A to these Regulations.
- b. Special Classes
  - (1) A competition host may in addition stage one or more special classes not conforming to the standard class tests set out in Annex C. Such classes must contain the word 'Special' in the title of the class, and shall not count towards progression, titles or awards in standard competition classes.
  - (2) Special classes may allow the use of food and/or silent toy rewards in the ring, but their use must be detailed in the schedule. Reward areas should be clearly defined and allow the use of both food and toys. Food should be carried in a sealed container and toys should be carried concealed, alternatively the reward may be left in the reward area in a concealed container.
  - (3) Where special classes allow the use of food and/or silent toys their use should not impact competitors in other rings.
  - (4) Where a ring is to be shared between a standard class and a special class which allows food and/or silent toys, the standard class must be scheduled first to ensure that the ring does not contain food.
- c. Capped classes
  - (1) Organisers of Open Rally competitions and Limited Rally competitions may set a capping level on the entries to be accepted in any standard or special class, and may decline entries received after the capping level has been reached.
  - (2) Qualifying scores gained in standard classes capped in accordance with this Regulation will count towards progression.
  - (3) The capping level must be set at a minimum of 40 entries received. There is no maximum level at which a cap may be set. Capped classes may be split into two or more divisions in accordance with Regulation S20i.
  - (4) The capping level for each capped class must be clearly specified in the competition schedule.
  - (5) The capping level applied may be adjusted upwards by a maximum of 10% after the closing date of a competition at the discretion of the competition organisers. Capping levels may not be adjusted downwards after publication of the schedule except with the prior permission of the Royal Kennel Club Board. Where total entries received exceed a capping level, entries must be processed in the order received. Processing of entry forms, and of online entries where applicable, must be managed so that the date of receipt of each entry is recorded. (It is permissible to set different opening and closing dates for online entries from those applying to postal entries.)
  - (6) Entry fees for entries which are received after the capping level has been exceeded must be refunded in full.

- (7) Entry forms must allow competitors to specify, if their entry for any capped class is declined because the capping level has been reached:-
- (i) that they wish the dog to remain entered in all other classes, or
  - (ii) that they wish their entire entry for the dog in question to be cancelled, or
  - (iii) that they wish their entire entry for all dogs they have entered at the competition to be cancelled.

In such cases the relevant entry fees must be refunded in full.

## **6. Permission to hold Events.**

The Board shall have the power to grant, withhold or cancel permission to hold any competition held under these Regulations.

## **7. Societies are required to apply for permission to hold Special Events.**

Applications should be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club by email at least six months before the start of any qualifying heats for the event.

Special Events are designated as any activity-related event which cannot be included on the schedule of a normally licensed show/trial/competition due to being invitational and therefore not open to all competitors, or which are not being held at a licensed show. Where competitors qualify for a final via heats held at that and other shows/trials/competitions, special event permission must be sought for the final whether it is held in conjunction with a licensed show/trial/competition or as a separate standalone event. This would not apply where all of the heats are held at the same show/trial/competition at which the final is held.

The regulations relating to the disqualification and forfeit of awards will apply to these events.

## **8. Jurisdiction and responsibilities.**

The officers and committee members of the society / or the licensee holding the licence are deemed responsible for organising and conducting the competition safely and in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Royal Kennel Club and agree to abide by and adopt any decision of the Board or any authority to whom the Board may delegate its powers subject to the conditions of Regulation S331. In so doing those appointed as officers and committee members, or the licensee, accept that they are jointly and severally responsible for the organisation of the competition and that this is a binding undertaking.

Any decision given against the society under Rule A11 of the Royal Kennel Club Rules may be communicated by the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club to the Secretaries of registered or affiliated societies holding licensed events, and may also be published in the Royal Kennel Club Journal, together with a report of the proceedings in the matter.

Any notice sent to the Secretary of the Society at the contact address duly lodged at the Royal Kennel Club shall be deemed full and sufficient notice on the part of the Royal Kennel Club of (a) any proceedings, matters or decision of the Board, or of any Authority to whom the Board may have delegated its powers or (b) of anything arising out of the competition licence or to the conduct of the Competition, or (c) of any other matter whatsoever arising out of or in connection with the same. Any change in officers or committee members must be notified to the Royal Kennel Club.

## **9. Application to Host a Rally competition.**

- a. The application to hold a competition must be submitted to the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club and must be accompanied by the appropriate licence fee at least six months before the proposed date of the competition.
- b. The application must provide full details of the proposed competition and include a declaration that the event will meet the requirements of these Regulations, including the provision of suitable facilities and adequate numbers of stewards, and have in place satisfactory procedures and policies in respect of health and safety procedures for dogs, handlers and spectators. The Royal Kennel Club may, at its discretion, require further financial and other relevant information from an organisation before approving it for the first time to host a Rally competition.
- c. Rally competitions may be run in conjunction with other dog sports events but may not be run in conjunction with other organisations' Rally events. Competition hosts must indicate on the application if the competition is being held in conjunction with another dog sports event and, if so, must describe the event.
- d. The Board shall have the power to grant, withhold, suspend or cancel any competition held under these regulations.
- e. Any cancellation or abandonment of a competition without prior permission of the Board must be reported in writing to the Royal Kennel Club without delay, and must be carried out in accordance with the relevant Royal Kennel Club published event cancellation policy.

## **10. Schedules.**

- a. A schedule, incorporating an entry form and an Exercise Modification Request form, must be published for each competition. A copy of the schedule issued for each competition must be retained by the organisations for at least one year from the date of the competition and must be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club if requested, together with any other documents.
- b. Schedules and entry forms should follow the layout and content of the current Rally specimen schedule and entry form published by the Royal Kennel Club.

## **11. Entry for competition.**

- a. A dog must at the time of entry for a Rally competition be registered as required by Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations in the owner's name (or registration or transfer applied for). In the case of joint registered owners the full name of every registered owner must be given on the entry form. Where an owner makes an entry on behalf of another joint registered owner(s) or where an agent enters on behalf of a single or joint registered owner(s) such person must have the authority and consent from the single or joint registered owner(s) to sign the entry form on their behalf thereby binding them all to Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations. In the event of any dispute, evidence of such authority and consent will be required. A dog acquired subsequent to entry having been made at a competition may be validly entered by the new owner provided that an application for the transfer has been forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club before the competition, and the new owner has undertaken to abide by the Regulations and conditions of the original entry form (and in accordance with the conditions set out above).

- b. A separate application for entry must be made by each owner and acceptance of the entry declaration must be given in accordance with the provisions specified thereon - whether in writing or via the internet. Entries cannot be accepted without the appropriate fees or acceptance of the entry declaration.
- c. If entered in a standard class, a dog must be entered at the level for which it is eligible. It may also be entered in up to two additional classes, one of which may be at the subsequent higher level.
- d. A dog can be entered in special class(es) only.
- e. Special classes do not count towards progression.
- f. A dog must not compete in the same class more than once, including special classes.

## **12. Acceptance of entries.**

- a. Societies have discretion to accept online entries only, postal entries only, or both online and postal entries. Schedules must clearly state the way in which entries may be made.
- b. When determining how many dogs can be efficiently judged, competition hosts should allow 4 minutes per dog for Levels 1 and 2 and 5 minutes per dog for Level 3 and above, plus an allowance for walk-through, any run-offs and class awards.
- c. Entries must close at the time indicated in the schedule, which must be no later than fourteen days before the first day of the competition.
- d. Entries received by post bearing the postmark of the date for closing of entries or before must be accepted subject to any proviso included in the schedule.
- e. Entries from competitors claiming that missing entries have been correctly posted must be accepted on the day of the competition. Such claims will have to be substantiated to the Royal Kennel Club which will request documentary evidence, subsequent to the competition.
- f. The competition organiser should promptly notify senders if entries are received with missing or incomplete information or insufficient fees. Entry forms with missing or incomplete information or insufficient entry fees do not constitute valid entries.
- g. The competition host must send out all pertinent information to all competitors no later than seven days before the first day of the competition. Competitors must send an SAE if they are unable to access the show information via the internet. The schedule must detail where to find the competition information.
- h. All qualifications gained up to and including seven days before the closing date of the event will count towards eligibility for competition. Therefore, should a dog qualify out of a class within the six days before the closing date of entries, the entry must be treated as though the dog had not gained this qualification.
- i. Competition hosts will not delay judging to accommodate late-arriving competitors, and are not required to refund any entry fees for competitors unable to compete with their dogs under these circumstances, whether or not the competitor was responsible for the late arrival.

## **13. Animals allowed in competition.**

No animal other than one officially entered shall be brought into the precincts of a competition during its continuance, except any dog registered to assist the

disabled, or dogs required for educational or instructional purposes or by permission of the Board. However, at the discretion of the host organisation, a dog brought to the competition by a spectator may be admitted into the precincts of the competition, with the proviso that those in charge of the dog sign a declaration confirming the dog is free from disease and that the dog will be kept under proper control at all times.

#### **14. Free passes.**

The organiser of a competition shall provide all competitors with a free pass enabling them to enter the competition at any time of the day on which their competition is scheduled, but in the case of a dog owned in a partnership only one such free pass need be issued. Additional free passes may be issued at the competition organiser's discretion.

#### **15. Documentation.**

At every competition the following documents must be available:-

- a. The written authority from the Royal Kennel Club to hold the competition which must be clearly displayed.
- b. A current public liability insurance document, which must be clearly displayed.
- c. A copy of the up to date Rally Regulations.
- d. A copy of the competition schedule.
- e. The completed entry forms for the competition. All entry forms together with any other documents must be preserved by the Competition organisers for at least twelve months and must be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club if required.
- f. **A list of ring numbers for each individual dog and handler team.**
- g. A Royal Kennel Club incident book, containing details of all incidents occurring at the competition, a copy of which must be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club within 14 days.

#### **16. Facilities and Equipment.**

It is the competition organiser's responsibility to provide the following:

- a. Information to the judge as soon as possible after the closing of entries concerning the number of entries, Exercise Modification Forms, the height of the dogs (for Level 4 and above), proposed ring size, and venue surface.
- b. Rally exercise signs, station numbers and appropriate holders.
- c. Judging rings shall not in any circumstances contain less than 100 sqm of clear floor space and shall not be less than 8 metres in length except that for Veteran classes, Level 3 and above the ring must contain not less than 150 sq m. Rings must be clearly defined and have a suitable, level surface.
- d. Rosettes & Awards
- e. Stop watches, clipboards, exercise modification forms, other forms and stationery as required.
- f. Cones for obstacle exercises, markers for Serpentine, Figure of Eight and Spirals. Base of markers not to exceed 200mm diameter.
- g. All jumps must be constructed in a manner that provides stability and safety for all dogs. Pole width is to be between 1 metre and 1.5 metres. It must be a single bar jump which is able to fall in either direction. The jump must not have wings. Jumps must not be used on hard surfaces, the use of take-off and or/landing mats is not permitted.
- h. For all jump exercises the jump may be replaced with a hoop. Hoops may



be based or baseless and must be constructed in a safe manner. Hoops should measure 89-92cm tall, 85-90cm wide with feet protruding no more than 31cm either side of the hoop. Where conditions dictate, hoops may be pegged or held down by sandbags that do not impede the dog's entry or exit from the hoop.

- i. Sufficient suitable space for handlers to exercise their dogs.
- j. Suitable and adequate clean up materials and dog waste bins.
- k. Adequate toilet facilities.
- l. A source of fresh water
- m. Adequate car parking arrangements.

### **17. Veterinary support.**

The competition host is required to arrange veterinary support compatible with the arrangements for the event and the anticipated entry.

### **18. Dog fouling.**

- a. Any owner, competitor, handler or other person in charge of a dog is required to remove, as soon as possible any fouling caused by their dog(s) at any Royal Kennel Club licensed event within the licensed venue and within the environs of that event including car and caravan parks and approaches.
- b. Any organisation holding a Royal Kennel Club licensed event is required to provide an adequate number of receptacles for the disposal of such fouling.

### **19. Awards.**

- a. The host organisation shall provide printed awards to a minimum of fourth place in all classes.
- b. The host organisation shall also provide certificates to all dogs which receive a qualifying score in standard classes at Open Rally competitions. The wording must clearly state the organising society or club, the date of the competition, the dog's Registered Royal Kennel Club name, the score gained and the judge's name and signature. The Certificate must state that it is a qualifying score. These certificates are proof of qualification which would be relied on in case of dispute for any future award.
- c. Other rosettes and special awards may be offered at the discretion of the competition host, these must be clearly stated in the Schedule.
- d. In standard classes, rosettes and/or place cards may not be awarded to dogs that have received a non-qualifying score for any of the reasons listed in the non-qualifying scoring regulations.

### **20. Judging.**

- a. Judges are expected to maintain and abide by the highest standards in accordance with Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and appropriate Codes of Best Practice as published from time to time.
- b. Before judging a Level 1 or Level 2 class at an Open Rally competition a judge must have:
  - (1) handled a dog and achieved a Level 1 or 2 Title.
  - (2) must have acted as a scribe steward for a complete standard Rally class on at least two occasions with two different judges.
  - (3) Have completed a Royal Kennel Club Rally Regulations and Judging Procedure Seminar and passed the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination

- (4) Have attended a Royal Kennel Club Rally Practical Judging Seminar
- (5) A judge's first three appointments must be restricted to Level 1 or Level 2.
- c. The next two appointments may be at Level 3. Before judging Level 4 a judge must have undertaken two appointments at Level 3.
- d. Before a judge can judge Level 5 they must have undertaken two appointments at Level 4.
- e. Before judging Level 6 a judge must have carried out two appointments at Level 5.
- f. Before judging a Veteran class, a judge must be qualified to judge Level 4.
- g. Before judging a Special class, a judge must be qualified to judge at least Level 1.
- h. Judges must ensure that they have scribed at every level they intend to judge.
- i. From 1 January 2022 all judges must have passed a Rally Regulations and Judging Procedure examination, every five years since passing the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination.
- j. Before judging at a Limited Rally competition a judge must have:
  - (1) handled a dog and achieved a Qualifying Score whilst competing at an Open Rally competition.
  - (2) attended a Royal Kennel Club Rally Regulations and Judging Procedure Seminar and passed the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination
  - (3) attended a Royal Kennel Club Rally Practical Judging Seminar
  - (4) OR be an existing Royal Kennel Club Rally qualified judge
- k. A judge may not judge more than 50 dogs per day. If the entry received exceeds 40, the class may be equally divided (to within one dog) by a draw and the class split into equal parts.
- l. Judges at a Rally competition must not enter for competition a dog which is recorded in their sole ownership, or handle a dog, at the competition at which they are judging. A dog recorded in part ownership with the judge may be entered for competition in any part of a class other than the part which the judge is judging.
- m. Judges must submit course plans to the Secretary and/or the Chief Steward no later than 10 days prior to the competition date.
- n. Judges to provide score sheets for their use.
- o. Judges accepting regular appointments are encouraged to source their own judging equipment.

## 21. Judging Contracts.

- a. Invitations to judge at a Rally competition must be made by host organisations in writing and must include a declaration to be signed by the judge, stating that they are qualified to judge. Host organisations must ensure that written acceptances are received and these must be followed by written confirmation of the appointment by the organisation, upon which a judging contract will be deemed to have been formed.
- b. Host organisations are required to include the following wording in judges' invitation letters:  
 'In accepting this invitation you agree to be bound by Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and the Royal Kennel Club Code of Best Practice for Judges, and confirm that you are qualified to judge in accordance with Rally Regulation S20. In addition, you will familiarise yourself with the

Royal Kennel Club S Regulations which are current at the date of the judging appointment. In doing so you also recognise that you are obliged to notify us in writing of any change in personal circumstances which may affect your ability to fulfil this judging appointment. You should note that we reserve the right to cancel the contract before the date of the appointment if there is such a change in your circumstances which, in our reasonable opinion, would adversely affect your ability to fulfil the appointment. Clubs may cancel a judging appointment where there is clear evidence that the judge's ability to fulfil the appointment has been adversely affected, or in consultation with the judge.'

- c. All judging contracts are subject to cancellation at the discretion of the Royal Kennel Club in the event of the judge being subject to relevant disciplinary action.
- d. In the event of a judge failing to honour an engagement to judge, the Board will require reasons for such failure, and in the event of the explanation not being considered satisfactory, the Board may impose a fine. Similarly, in the event of a society not honouring a judging contract, the society may be required by the Board to give reasons for such failure, and in the event of the explanation not being considered satisfactory, the Board may impose a fine upon the host organisation.
- e. In the event of such fines not being paid within the time stipulated by the Board, the judge or officers and committee members of the society / or the licensee, as applicable, may at the discretion of the Board be dealt with as if a complaint under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11 had been lodged and proved to the satisfaction of the Board.

## **22. Competing.**

- a. After a dog has commenced competing in a class, no substitution of handler is permitted in that class.
- b. For the duration of the competition all dogs must be on a lead except when competing or practising prior to competition.
- c. All dogs must enter and leave the judging ring on lead. When in use, one end of the lead must be attached to a ring on the dog's collar and the other should be held in the handler's hand(s), except for when performing Bonus Exercises 4 or 5 where the handler has chosen for their dog to drag the lead.
- d. No dog shall be allowed in the judging ring other than those entered and competing in the class being judged.
- e. Any dog which is not presented for competition when its running order is due will be withdrawn from the class.
- f. Food shall not be carried or given to a dog under test, except in special classes where the use of food and/or silent toy rewards has been specified in the Schedule.
- g. The use of a toy as an incentive in the ring between or during exercises is prohibited in all standard and special classes, except in those special classes where the use of food and/or silent toy rewards has been specified in the Schedule.
- h. Dogs must compete in a buckle or snap collar. Collars may have tags on them. Decorations and/or costumes, harnesses, slip leads, check and half-check collars are not allowed. A medicated collar may also be worn in the ring.

- i. Judge's discretion prevails and judge's decisions are final.
- j. **Jump Heights** – Dogs may be required to be measured on the day of competition prior to the judging. Judges have the option of measuring any dog prior to his/her performance if the dog appears to be entered in a group other than might be indicated by his/her registered shoulder height.  
Shoulder Height under 30 cm Jump 10 cm  
Shoulder Height 30 cm to under 40 cm Jump 20 cm  
Shoulder Height 40 cm to under 50 cm Jump 30 cm  
Shoulder Height 50 cm and over Jump 40 cm

### **23. Control of dogs.**

- a. No person shall carry out punitive correction or harsh handling of a dog at any time whilst at the licensed venue, including its environs, car and caravan parks and approaches.
- b. The owner, competitor, handler or other person in charge of a dog at Royal Kennel Club events must at all times ensure that the dog is kept under proper control whilst at the venue, including its environs, car and caravan parks and approaches. This Regulation applies before (at any time during the set up period at the venue), during the event and afterwards (at any time during the breakdown of the event). The mating of bitches within the precincts of the competition, as stipulated above, is forbidden. An exhibitor or competitor should ensure that contact details for any handler are available and must be provided upon request in any investigation of a breach of this regulation by such handler.
- c. No person attending a competition may allow a bitch in season to be on the competition ground or to foul any ground used by dogs under test.

### **24. Competition of dogs suffering from contagious or infectious disease.**

No dogs suffering from any infectious or contagious disease or having been exposed to such disease during the period of 21 days prior to the competition may compete. Competitors infringing this Regulation will be liable to be fined and/or to be dealt with under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.

### **25. Removal of dogs.**

Following discussion between the show management and/or a veterinary surgeon a dog shall be prevented from competing and/or removed from the competition if it is:

- a. A bitch which is in season; or
- b. Suffering from any infectious or contagious disease; or
- c. Interfering with the safety or chance of winning of an opponent; or
- d. Of such temperament or is so much out of control as to be a danger to the safety or well-being of any person or other animal; or
- e. Likely to cause suffering to the dog if it continues competing.

The circumstances of such a removal shall be recorded in the competition incident book and submitted to the Royal Kennel Club.

### **26. Disqualification and forfeit of awards.**

- a. A dog may be disqualified by the Board from any award whether an objection has been lodged or not, if proved amongst other things to have been;
  - (1) Competed at an unrecognised event.

- (2) Entered for competition or handled by a person disqualified or suspended under Rule A11, as from the date of the complaint having been lodged at the Royal Kennel Club and for the period of disqualification or suspension.
  - (3) Not entered on a Royal Kennel Club approved entry form in the name and with the details which are recorded with the Royal Kennel Club.
  - (4) Entered after the date announced for closing of entries, subject to the conditions of Regulation S12.e. or contrary to Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations.
  - (5) Suffering from an infectious or contagious disease.
  - (6) Competed in a level for which it was not entered.
  - (7) Exhibited for competition or handled in the ring by a judge of dogs in that class.
  - (8) Registered or recorded as owned by the scheduled judge within a period of twelve months prior to the competition. This shall not apply to dogs owned by a judge appointed in an emergency.
  - (9) Handled at a competition within the previous twelve months by the scheduled judge. This shall not apply to dogs owned by a judge appointed in an emergency.
  - (10) Handled in the class by the scheduled judge's spouse, immediate family, or resident at the same address as the scheduled judge. This shall not apply to a judge appointed in an emergency.
  - (11) Not correctly registered and recorded in the name of the owner at the Royal Kennel Club or as provided in Regulation S11.a.
  - (12) To have been the subject of any other default, omission, action or incident occurring at or in connection with the competition rendering it unfair that the award should be allowed to stand.
- b. A dog shall be disqualified by the Board from any awards gained whether an objection has been lodged or not, if entered in a level for which it is ineligible and not withdrawn from competition and the competitor may be fined at the discretion of the Board.
  - c. The owner of a dog disqualified for any of the above reasons is liable to forfeit all entry fees paid, and all prize money won by such dog.

## **27. Order of merit when dogs are disqualified.**

If a dog be disqualified, the prize to which it would otherwise have been entitled shall be forfeited. The Committee may at its discretion move up the dog or dogs next in order of merit (up to and including reserve or fourth place) to take the prize or prize(s).

## **28. Objections.**

- a. An objection must be lodged directly with the Royal Kennel Club within seven days after the last day of the competition and under these circumstances a copy of the objection must be sent to the competition secretary.
- b. When an objection is lodged the following information must be given:
  - (1) A statement detailing the objection, quoting the relevant regulation(s).
  - (2) The objection fee of £35, or such amount as may from time to time be decided by the Board.

- (3) The name and address of the objector.
- (4) The name and address of the owner of the dog (if relevant).
- (5) All relevant evidence.
- c. The objection fee may be returned after consideration of the objection.
- d. With the exception of objections made under Regulation 25 (Removal of Dogs) the dog should be allowed to compete and a full report made to the Royal Kennel Club.
- e. The right to lodge an objection to a dog or any action taken at a competition is limited to anyone in attendance at the competition not under a term of suspension imposed by the Royal Kennel Club, or the owner of a dog competing or his accredited representative.
- f. No objection shall be invalidated solely on the grounds that it was incorrectly lodged.
- g. Objections or alleged breaches of Royal Kennel Club Regulations shall be referred to the Board who shall have the power to delegate the hearing of the objection or breach of regulation to the relevant Committee or may decide to refer the matter for disciplinary action under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.
- h. Any appeal against the relevant Committee decision must be lodged within fourteen days of the decision being given and will be subject to the prescribed appeals procedure.

## **29. Fraudulent or discreditable conduct at the competition.**

- a. The competition host must immediately report in writing to the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club any case of alleged fraudulent or discreditable conduct, or any default, omission or incident at or in connection with the event which may come to his notice, even where the parties concerned have indicated that they intend taking no action, and at the same time forward to the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club all documents and information in connection there with which may be in his possession or power. If evidence is placed before the Board to its satisfaction that undue influence has been exercised by any person(s), or that any improper means have been used to influence the appointment of a judge or interfere with the participation of a dog at any event held under Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations, the Board may require all correspondence and evidence in connection with the case to be produced in order that it may deal with the offender(s) under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.
- b. Those taking part in a competition held under these Regulations shall not openly impugn the decision of the appointed judge(s) or assessor(s) or openly criticise the event officials or helpers.

## **30. Penalties.**

The Board shall have power to impose any of the following penalties upon any person for any breach of Royal Kennel Club Regulations subject to a right of appeal, notice of intention of which must be lodged within 14 days from the date on which the decision is given and subject to the prescribed appeals process as shall be determined by the Board from time to time;

- a. Warn
- b. Censure/Reprimand
- c. Apology directive (Conduct Regulation or the Control of Dogs Regulation)
- d. Fine

e. Award disqualified

In addition, the Board may make the following directives;

f. A dog's registration record may be marked 'incident recorded'

g. A dog's registration record may be endorsed 'not eligible for entry in any event held under Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations, nor any unlicensed event recognised by the Royal Kennel Club.'

The right of appeal against directives f) and g) listed above extends to an appeal on the finding of fact of a deliberate dog bite only, but does not extend to an appeal against those directives f) and g) in terms of cancellation or modification of such directives if there is a finding of fact of an intentional dog bite.

In the event of any fine not being paid, or non compliance with any apology directive issued within the time stipulated by the Board, then that person may, at the discretion of the Board, be dealt with as if a complaint under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11 had been lodged and proved to the satisfaction of the Board.

For complaints of conduct whether at a licensed event or on social media, in addition to a warning issued - a short term fixed period of refusal of entry/attendance at Royal Kennel Club licensed events may also be imposed in accordance with procedures to be published from time to time to implement this regulation.

### **31. Delegated powers of the Scottish Kennel Club.**

- a. For the purpose of paragraphs 2, 4 and 6 of these Regulations the power to grant, withhold or cancel permission to hold any licensed Rally competition in Scotland shall be delegated to the Scottish Kennel Club.
- b. For the purposes of these Regulations, all powers of the Board relative to shows held in Scotland and licensed by the Scottish Kennel Club are delegated to the Executive Council of the Scottish Kennel Club. Applications for licences, objections and allegations of fraudulent or discreditable conduct relative to Rally competitions licensed by the Scottish Kennel Club must be made to the Secretary General of the Scottish Kennel Club, Unit 2 - Ground Floor, Satellite Business Park, Macmerry, Tranent, East Lothian. EH33 1RY.

### **32. Regulations.**

Competitors and officials at approved competitions shall be subject to Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.

### **33. Levels, classes and eligibility.**

The detailed Regulations for eligibility for and progression through the Levels and Classes are set out in Annex A which forms a part of these Regulations.

### **34. Performance and Scoring.**

The detailed Regulations and guidelines for successful performance and the scoring of handler/dog teams, and for the conduct and management of Rally competitions, are set out in Annex B which forms part of these Regulations.

### **35. Description of Exercises and Signs.**

The detailed Regulations relating to descriptions of the exercises and the signs to be used in a Rally competition are set out in Annex C which forms part of these Regulations.

### **36. Instructions as to the Duties of Chief Stewards.**

The Instructions as to the duties of Chief Stewards are given in Annex D.

## LEVELS, CLASSES AND ELIGIBILITY

### 1. Levels.

Rally handler/dog teams compete in their lowest eligible class from Level 1 to Level 6. They may also compete at the subsequent level. Progression to the next level does not require either wins or places, however, a class will be won by the dog that has lost the least number of points, unless otherwise stated for other classes. Progression is dependent upon gaining three Excellent scores, under three different judges, or six qualifying scores under four different judges.

Levels 1 - 4 have a qualifying score of 175 out of 200.

Levels 5 & 6 have a qualifying score of 180 out of 200.

Scores equivalent to these qualifying scores (or greater) earned at Limited Rally competitions do not count towards Progression, Rally Level titles or Excellent titles.

In all levels a qualifying score of 190 or above equates to an excellent score.

### 2. Veteran.

Rally handler/dog teams where the dog is 7 years of age or older may compete in Veteran as well as, or instead of, their lowest eligible class.

Veteran has a qualifying score of 175 out of 200.

A qualifying score of 190 or above equates to an excellent score.

### 3. Eligibility.

#### a. Standard Level Classes

When entered for a competition in a standard level class, a dog must be entered at the level for which it is eligible. The dog may also, if desired, be entered in up to two additional classes including one further standard level class at the subsequent higher level. Once a dog has gained any level or excellent title, it is no longer eligible for any lower level.

#### b. Veteran classes

A dog which is 7 years old or over on the first day of the competition may be entered in just a Veteran class. It may also be entered in standard level classes and special classes to a maximum of 3 classes in total.

#### c. Special classes

A dog may be entered in special classes only, up to a maximum of 3 classes in total. Special classes do not count towards progression.

### Level 1

- Open to dogs which have not achieved a Level 1 or Level 1 Excellent title.

### Level 2

- Open to all dogs which have achieved a Level 1 or Level 1 Excellent title, except those that have achieved a Level 2 or Level 2 Excellent title. Dogs eligible for and entered at Level 1 may also enter at this level.

### Level 3

- Open to all dogs which have achieved a Level 2 or Level 2 Excellent title, except those that have achieved a Level 3 or Level 3 Excellent title. Dogs eligible for and entered at Level 2 may also enter at this level.



**Level 4**

- Open to all dogs which have achieved a Level 3 or Level 3 Excellent title, except those that have achieved a Level 4 or Level 4 Excellent title. Dogs eligible for and entered at Level 3 may also enter at this level.

**Level 5**

- Open to all dogs which have achieved a Level 4 or Level 4 Excellent title, except those that have achieved a Level 5 or Level 5 Excellent title. Dogs eligible for and entered at Level 4 may also enter at this level.

**Level 6**

- Open to all dogs which have achieved a Level 5 or Level 5 Excellent title. Dogs eligible for and entered at Level 5 may also enter at this level.

**Veteran**

Open to all dogs aged 7 years or over on the first day of the competition.

**4. Level Titles.**

(Only the highest level title achieved should be used after the dog's name. The title is designated as 'RL1', 'RL2', 'RL3', 'RL4', 'RL5', or 'RL6' and appears after the dog's name).

**Level 1 title**

Requires six qualifying scores of 175 or better, earned under four different judges at Level 1.

**Level 2 title**

Requires six qualifying scores of 175 or better, earned under four different judges at Level 2.

**Level 3 title**

Requires six qualifying scores of 175 or better, earned under four different judges at Level 3.

**Level 4 title**

Requires six qualifying scores of 175 or better, earned under four different judges at Level 4.

**Level 5 title**

Requires six qualifying scores of 180 or better, earned under four different judges at Level 5.

**Level 6 title**

Requires six qualifying scores of 180 or better, earned under four different judges at Level 6.

**5.** (Once achieved the Veteran title should be used after the dog's name and follow any Rally Level title the dog has achieved. The title is designated as 'RV'.)

**Veteran title**

Requires six qualifying scores of 175 or better, earned under four different judges in a standard Veteran class.

**6. 'Excellent' titles.**

(Where an Excellent title is used after the dog's name this replaces the relevant Level or Veteran title).

A dog which has qualified at any level or the standard Veteran class with three qualifying scores each of 190 or better, gained under three different judges, is

entitled to the description 'Rally Excellent' with the designations shown below which appear after the dog's name (for Rally Level titles, only the highest designation achieved should be used):

Level 1 RL1.Ex

Level 2 RL2.Ex

Level 3 RL3.Ex

Level 4 RL4.Ex

Level 5 RL5.Ex

Level 6 RL6.Ex

Veteran RV-Ex

**7.** All qualifying scores earned before 1 January 2018 will count towards progression.

## PERFORMANCE AND SCORING GUIDELINES AND COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

### 1. PERFORMANCE

#### a. Heel position

The dog is considered in heel position when both dog and handler are facing the same direction and the dog is working in a consistent position within arm's length of the handler. The dog must work on the left side of the handler, unless the handler suffers from a physical disability and has completed an Exercise Modification Request form (preferably in advance of the competition).

#### b. Rewards

Touch rewards are allowed when the dog/handler team has completed an exercise which ends in a static position and before the dog/handler team has begun to heel forward towards the next exercise. An exercise is considered complete when the last element of an exercise has been performed and the dog/handler team has not begun to move forward. Touch rewards may be given at the completion of any onward linked exercise without the handler having to perform the following exercise in the linked bank separately. The exercise descriptions in Annex C note if an exercise ends in a static position.

The use of food or toys is not permitted in the ring and handlers making use of them will receive a non-qualifying score.

#### c. Commands/cues

Commands may be spoken or signalled. If both are used and given simultaneously they are considered a single command. Any additional act, signal or command which in the opinion of the judge has given the dog unfair assistance shall be penalised. Handlers are encouraged to communicate with their dogs throughout the course. Praise and encouragement are not considered commands.

#### d. Bonus exercise

The Bonus exercise is optional and is performed after the dog/handler team crosses the finish line. Dog/handler teams may earn up to ten additional points for the bonus exercise. There is one bonus exercise on each course. The bonus is scored the same as other exercises. Handlers are allowed to touch reward and/or play with their dog after the Finish and before the start of the Bonus Exercise.

#### e. Exercises that involve turns

The handler should make a turn within an approx. diameter of 45cm./18inches. Exercises that involve a pivot should be executed as tightly as possible. The dog should maintain a consistent position, depending on size and breed.

#### f. Unless specified in the exercise description, exercises start as the handler approaches the sign.

- g. Courses for Levels 1 and 2 are performed on lead, with the exception of Bonus Exercises 4 and 5. Levels 3 and above, and Veteran, are performed off lead, regardless of the Bonus Exercise used.

## 2. COURSE DESIGN.

The following guidelines must be observed by judges when designing courses.

The layout of the course depends partly on the positioning of doors and fittings which should be considered when planning. A judge must be familiar with the venue surface before planning any jumping exercises.

General Guidance, applicable to all levels:

- (1) There must be a minimum distance of 2.5 metres between exercises. This minimum can be extended where space permits excluding changes of pace.
  - (2) Once used, an exercise should not be repeated, with the exception of the right turn, left turn, 270 degree right turn, 270 degree left turn and normal pace.
  - (3) The angled recall and angled recall over jump exercises may each be used twice in a course to enable them to be laid in both directions, once to the left and once to the right.
  - (4) Judges should design their courses to showcase a wide variety of skills and behaviours.
  - (5) All standard courses from Level 1 and above, including Veteran should contain a minimum of two static positions.
  - (6) In levels where they are permitted, there should be a maximum of two jump exercises.
  - (7) All exercises stand alone (except where two exercises are linked). The positioning of exercises should be planned carefully to ensure that one does not impact on another.
  - (8) Courses should be designed so that the route between exercises does not transit other exercises. Competitors may only be required to pass through cone and distraction exercises when performing that particular exercise.
  - (9) Sometimes it may be necessary for competitors to pass a Distraction or Jump exercise - where this is unavoidable these exercises should be on the handler's right.
- a. **Level 1**  
There should be a minimum of ten and a maximum of twelve exercises, with no more than six static positions.
- b. **Level 2**
- (1) The same markers may be used in the execution of two exercises, for example cones used for Spiral Left, Spiral Right, Figure 8 or Serpentine. Junctions may not be used at this level.
  - (2) There should be a minimum of twelve and a maximum of fifteen exercises, with no more than eight static positions.
  - (3) There should be four or five exercises from Level 2 with the remainder from Level 1.
- c. **Level 3**
- (1) There should be a minimum of twelve and a maximum of fifteen exercises, with no more than eight static positions.

- (2) There should be four or five exercises from Level 3 with the remainder from Levels 1 and 2.
- (3) A maximum of two exercises may be linked at this level.
- (4) There should be a maximum of one Distraction Exercise, including the Bonus Exercise.

**d. Level 4**

- (1) There should be a minimum of fifteen and a maximum of seventeen exercises, with no more than twelve static positions.
- (2) There should be a minimum of one and a maximum of four exercises from Level 3, and a minimum of one and a maximum of four exercises from Level 4.

**e. Level 5**

- (1) There should be a minimum of fifteen and a maximum of seventeen exercises, with no more than twelve static positions.
- (2) There should be a minimum of one and a maximum of four exercises from Level 4, and a minimum of one and a maximum of four exercises from Level 5.

**f. Level 6**

- (1) There should be a minimum of sixteen and a maximum of eighteen exercises, with no more than sixteen static positions.
- (2) There should be a minimum of one and maximum of four exercises from Level 5, and a minimum of one and a maximum of four exercises from Level 6.

**g. Veteran**

- (1) There should be a minimum of ten and a maximum of fifteen exercises, with between two and eight static positions.
- (2) The exercises and bonus exercise may be taken from any level.
- (3) The round must not contain more than two down positions.
- (4) No exercise or set of linked exercises should require more than three changes of position. (For linked exercises, the judge may assume that all competitors will choose to perform the linked static position only once).
- (5) There should be no more than two cone/distraction exercises in total.
- (6) There should be no more than one backup/heelback exercise, including the bonus.
- (7) There should be no more than one jump exercise. If a jump exercise is used the jump height is to be reduced by 10cm for all dogs. Dogs jumping the lowest height will have the pole laid on the ground.

### **3. RING MANAGEMENT.**

**a. Sign placement**

Signs must be placed so that they are on the handler's right with the following exceptions:

- (1) Turns and pivots should be placed directly in the handler's path.
- (2) Side Step Right should be placed in the handler's path.
- (3) Figure 8, distraction exercises, Spiral Left and Serpentine signs are placed so that they are on the handler's left.
- (4) For all two-sign exercises, the signs will be placed 2-3 metres apart unless otherwise stated.

- (5) All jumps should be positioned approximately 4 metres ahead of the exercise sign. The distance from the jump to the next exercise sign should be approximately 4 metres from the jump pole (a total of 8 metres). When a jump exercise requires a handler to take a path off set to the jump, the lateral measurement should be 1.5 metres taken from the base of the inner edge of the nearest jump upright.
  - (6) Where jumps are replaced by hoops, the hoop should be positioned approximately 2 metres ahead of the exercise sign. The distance from the hoop to the next exercise sign should be approximately 2 metres from the hoop (a total of 4 metres). When the exercise requires a handler to take a path off-set to the hoop, the lateral measurement should be 1.5m taken from the base of the inner edge of the nearest hoop upright.
  - (7) Sometimes it is not possible for exercise signs to be placed in their usual position. The judge will make handlers aware of the new placement during the judge's briefing. This may be due to space constraints, safety issues, the combination of a series of Linked Exercises or other exceptional circumstances.
- b. **Linked exercises**  
Linked Exercises are designed to share a static position (e.g. Sit Send Around Sit and Sit Stand). The handler may choose to perform the second exercise separately; if they choose to do so they should take one step forward before starting the second exercise. Linked exercises may not be used in Levels 1 and 2. At Level 3 and above and in the Veteran class, Linked Exercises may be used one or more times within a course. At Level 3 and Veteran class, no more than two exercises may be linked together. At Level 4 and above, two or more exercises may be linked in an exercise bank. When calculating the number of static positions in a course the linked positions should only be counted once.
  - c. **Judge's briefing**  
Judges should give a briefing at the start of the walk-through. They should use this time to draw competitors attention to any matters of concern, particularly any signs which have not been placed where expected.
  - d. **Booking in**  
All competitors must report to the ringside of all classes entered and book in, by marking a list of entries, within one hour of the scheduled time for the commencement of judging of the class. The class lists are to be provided by the show management and should be available from the stated opening time of the Show.
  - e. **Walk-throughs**  
Handlers are provided with a maximum 30 minute period during which to walk the course (without dogs) and ask the judge questions. The time allocated should be relevant to the number of entries. Only handlers entered in the class may walk the course.
  - f. **Course time**  
Rally Levels 1 and 2 courses shall have a maximum course time of 4 minutes and Levels 3 to 6 courses shall have a maximum time of 5 minutes. The Bonus exercise, if undertaken, is not included in course time.

**g. Start**

The Judge will indicate to the dog/handler team that they may begin. Timing will begin when the dog/handler team crosses the Start line, with the sign on their right. The dog does not have to be sitting in heel position to begin the course. Dog/handler teams should cross the start line at their normal heeling pace.

**h. Finish**

Timing concludes as the dog/handler team crosses the Finish line. If the dog/handler team has not chosen to perform the Bonus exercise, judging concludes as the dog/handler team crosses the Finish line. If the dog/handler team has chosen to perform the Bonus exercise, judging will conclude after the dog/handler team completes the exercise. Once a dog/handler team has crossed the Finish line the handler is permitted to release the dog from the heel position and to physically praise and play with their dog prior to undertaking the Bonus exercise which commences as the dog/handler team pass the Bonus sign.

**i. Bonus exercise**

The Bonus exercise is an optional exercise. Handlers are not required to perform the Bonus exercise. Each level has several bonus exercises. The judge will choose the Bonus exercise to be offered. Judges may only use one Bonus exercise on a course, which must be clearly identified on the course map.

**4. SCORING GUIDELINES.**

Each dog/handler team enters the ring with a perfect score of 200 points. Deductions are scored based on the exercise requirements and the scoring guidelines. The judge indicates point deductions on the score sheet as faults occur on the course. He or she may be assisted by a scribe steward in recording the deductions.

- a. The minimum deduction is one point.
- b. Dogs which are unmanageable and/or bark excessively will receive deductions based on the severity of the behaviour. The judge may require the removal of a dog from the ring for unmanageable or disruptive behaviour. In severe cases the dog may be required to be removed from the event as set out in the Removal of Dogs regulation.
- c. Any handler who has been required to leave the ring due to physical or harsh verbal corrections or for the dog being out of control shall be reported to the chief steward and the competition secretary or competition manager. This must be noted in the competition's incident book, which must be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club.
- d. Tied scores for place awards - In the event that two or more dog/handler teams score an equal number of points, they shall be invited to participate in a run-off using a Bonus exercise appropriate to the level. The run off bonus should be stated on the course plan submitted to the Secretary and/or the Chief Steward.

**5. SCORING.****a. 1 point deduction**

- (1) Tight lead, each occurrence
- (2) Slightly out of position
- (3) Additional cues (given to prompt the dog to perform the exercise)
- (4) Dropped lead (the lead should be picked up by the handler prior to continuing. If the lead is not immediately picked up a 5 points deduction should be made for performing an exercise incorrectly).

**b. 2 points deduction**

- (1) Moderately out of position
- (2) Failure of the dog to move on the handler's cue as specified in the exercise description
- (3) Lack of attention/motivation
- (4) Excessive barking or jumping up whilst competing
- (5) Minor movement out of position during statics

**c. 3 points deduction**

- (1) Failure to maintain a consistent pace
- (2) Dog sitting on or not completing turns
- (3) Significantly out of position
- (4) Harsh cues/signals
- (5) Wide/curved/inaccurate/loose turns
- (6) Overly large circles/weaves/spirals and walk arounds etc.
- (7) Dog sniffs distractions.
- (8) Extended/Excessive cue e.g. giving a continuous hand signal when leaving a dog for a recall or continuous hand-touch in heelwork.

**d. 5 points deduction**

- (1) Handler is in front of jump/uprights when sending a dog over
- (2) Failure to sit, down, stand, wait, come or finish
- (3) Failure of handler to pivot
- (4) Incorrect finish
- (5) Knocking a cone, exercise sign or piece of ring equipment (e.g. jump upright, distraction covers) so that it has to be reset (or with sufficient force that it would have moved if not pegged down). If a dog taps a piece of equipment with their wagging tail this should not be penalised.
- (6) Exercise performed incorrectly e.g. in the wrong direction; static positions in the wrong order; failure to change pace.
- (7) Handler and/or dog pass on the wrong side of a piece of equipment.
- (8) Dog refuses, misses or knocks down a jump.
- (9) Dog fails to pick up a retrieve article.

**e. Non-qualifying**

- (1) Touching the dog to prompt an exercise
- (2) Nipping or mouthing
- (3) Exceeding course time (unless an exercise modification for time has been approved)
- (4) Dog leaves the ring or dog is not under sufficient control to continue
- (5) Consistently tight lead
- (6) Handler and/or dog misses or does not attempt an exercise or goes off course



- (7) Dogs which eliminate or become ill in the ring will be excused from the ring and receive a non-qualifying score
  - (8) Physical/harsh verbal correction
  - (9) Dog competes wearing the wrong type of collar or the handler carries food or a toy.
- f. The Bonus exercise has a total point value of ten points. If no deductions are taken, ten points are added to the dog/handler team's score. If errors are made in the performance deductions are taken off the total bonus exercise value of ten. The score for the bonus exercise is added onto the team's score from their round to give their final score. A score of zero on the bonus does not impact the dog/handler team's final score. If the handler chooses not to perform the bonus exercise at any time there is no impact on the dog/handler team's score. All normal non-qualifying criteria apply. This exercise is performed after the dog/handler team crosses the finish line and the timer has stopped timing.

## EXERCISES AND SIGNS

### LEVEL 1

There are 22 Level 1 exercises and 3 bonus exercises as follows:

#### START



1. **SIT.** The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. When the dog is sitting, the handler cues the dog to heel forward. This exercise ends in a static position.



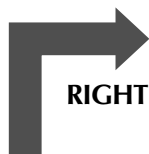
2. **SIT-STAND.** The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler then cues the dog to stand. When the dog is standing, the handler cues the dog to heel forward. This exercise ends in a static position.



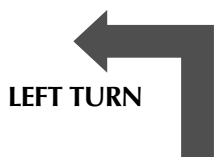
3. **SIT-DOWN.** The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler then cues the dog to down. When the dog is down, the handler cues the dog to heel forward. This exercise ends in a static position.



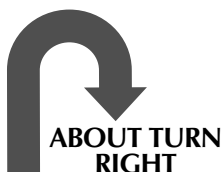
4. ***SIT-DOWN-SIT.*** The first part of this exercise is performed as described in Exercise 3. When the dog is down, the handler cues the dog into a sit position. When the dog is sitting, the handler cues the dog to heel forward. This exercise ends in a static position.



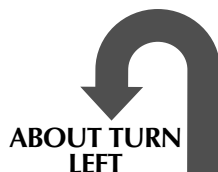
5. ***RIGHT TURN.*** This is an accurate 90-degree right turn.



6. ***LEFT TURN.*** This is an accurate 90-degree left turn.



7. ***ABOUT TURN RIGHT.*** This is a 180-degree accurate turn to the handler's right.



8. ***ABOUT TURN LEFT.*** This is a 180-degree accurate turn to the handler's left.

**270°  
RIGHT**



9. **270 DEGREE RIGHT (Turn).** While heeling, the dog/handler team makes a 270-degree turn that begins to the handler's right. The final direction taken toward the next exercise is to the left of the dog/handler team's original position.

**360°  
RIGHT**



10. **360 DEGREE RIGHT (Turn).** While heeling, the dog/handler team makes a 360-degree turn (a complete circle) that begins to the handler's right. The final direction is the same as that of the dog/handler team before starting the exercise.



**CALL  
FRONT  
FORWARD  
RIGHT**

11. **CALL FRONT – FORWARD RIGHT.** While heeling the handler stops his/her forward motion approximately level with the sign and calls the dog to the front position. The dog continues to move during this portion of the exercise – the dog does not sit as it goes to the front position. The handler may step backwards as the dog turns and moves to sit in front of and facing the handler. The backward movement of the handler must be no more than three steps taken straight back.

The handler is not to move to the side to position him/herself in front of the dog; the dog must move to sit directly in front of the handler. The dog may go past the sign to accomplish this. For the second part of the exercise, the handler cues the dog to move from the front position to the handler's right, around behind the handler and into the heel position as the handler continues forward. The dog does not sit in the heel position.

**CALL  
FRONT  
FORWARD  
LEFT**



12. **CALL FRONT – FORWARD LEFT.** The Call Front part of this exercise is performed as in Exercise 11. For the second part, the handler cues the dog to move from the front position to the handler's left and into the heel position as the handler continues forward. The dog does not sit and the handler moves forward as the dog comes into heel position.



13. **CALL FRONT – FINISH RIGHT.** The Call Front portion of this exercise is performed as in Exercise 11.

For the second part, the handler cues the dog to finish by moving from the front position to the handler's right, around behind the handler and finally sitting in the heel position. The handler then cues the dog to heel and moves forward. This exercise ends in a static position.



14. **CALL FRONT – FINISH LEFT.** The Call Dog Front portion of this exercise is performed as in Exercise 11.

For the second part, the handler cues the dog to finish, moving from the front position to the handler's left, and sitting in the heel position. The handler then cues the dog to heel and moves forward.

This exercise ends in a static position.



15. **SLOW PACE.** As the dog/handler team draw level with the sign they decrease their pace so that there is a noticeable difference from the dog's normal pace. In Level 1-5 this exercise must be followed by Exercise 17 (Normal Pace), or it may be placed as the last exercise on the course, in which case the exercise and performance are concluded as the dog/handler team crosses the Finish Line. In Level 6 it is permissible for this exercise to be followed by either Exercise 5 (Right Turn) or Exercise 6 (Left Turn) but this must then be followed by either Exercise 17 (Normal Pace) or the Finish sign.



16. **FAST PACE.** As the dog/handler team draw level with the sign they increase their pace so that there is a noticeable difference from the dog's normal pace. This exercise must be followed by Exercise 17 (Normal Pace), or it may be placed as the last exercise on the course, in which case the exercise and performance are concluded as the dog/handler team crosses the Finish Line. This exercise requires approximately 4 metres between Exercise 16 (Fast Pace) and Exercise 17 (Normal Pace) or the Finish.



17. **NORMAL PACE.** As the dog/handler team draw level with the sign they move forward at a normal pace that is comfortable for the dog and handler.

**MOVING  
SIDE STEP  
RIGHT**



18. **MOVING SIDE STEP RIGHT.** While heeling past the sign, the handler takes one diagonal step with his/her right foot, forward and to the right with the sign on the right. The handler then steps with the left foot, also forward and to the right, along the newly established line. The exercise is performed AFTER the sign.



19. **SIT – RIGHT TURN – FORWARD.** The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. They then execute a 90 degree turn to the handler's right, the dog moves with the handler as they turn. They then heel forward.



20. **SIT – LEFT TURN – FORWARD.** The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. They then execute a 90 degree turn to the handler's left, the dog moves with the handler as they turn. They then heel forward.

**FIGURE 8**



21. **FIGURE 8.** Four cones are placed in a straight line approximately 1.5 metres apart. The sign is placed near the first cone in the line. Entry into the weaving pattern is between the first and second cone with the first cone on the dog/handler team's left. Dog and handler weave through the cones, loop the end cone and weave back to the beginning of the pattern. The exit direction from the pattern is dependent on the placement of the next exercise.

**SERPENTINE**

22. **SERPENTINE.** Four cones are placed in a straight line approximately 1.5 metres apart. The dog/handler team enters with the first cone on their left, weaves through the cones and exits at the last cone. The dog/handler team does not weave back through the cones.

**FINISH****BONUS****Bonus Exercise 1**

**CALL FRONT – SIDE STEP RIGHT OR LEFT.** The Call Front part of this exercise is performed as in Exercise 11. Once the dog is sitting in front, the handler takes one full step to either the right or left. The dog must move sideways with the handler and after moving, must sit in the front position. Once the dog has moved sideways and is sitting in front, the exercise is complete.

**Bonus Exercise 2****CALL FRONT – TURN RIGHT OR LEFT.**

The Call Front part of this exercise is performed as in Exercise 11. Once the dog is sitting in front, the handler executes a 90 degree turn to the left or the right. The dog moves with the handler and sits in the front position once the handler has executed their turn. The dog should stand up to execute the turn. The handler may take up to three steps backwards.



### SIT 3 STEPS SIT

#### **Bonus Exercise 3**

#### **SIT – 3 STEPS – SIT.**

The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler cues the dog to move and takes three steps forward, then stops with the dog sitting at heel.

## LEVEL 2

The 13 additional exercises and 2 additional bonus exercises for Level 2 are as follows:

### **START**



### SIT WALK AROUND

23. **SIT - WALK AROUND.** The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler gives the dog a stay or wait cue and walks forward, around the dog anti-clockwise, and back to the heel position. The handler then cues the dog to heel forward.

This exercise ends in a static position.



### SIT DOWN WALK AROUND

24. **SIT - DOWN - WALK AROUND.**

The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler cues the dog to lie down, gives a stay or wait cue and walks forward, around the dog anti-clockwise, and back to the heel position. The handler then cues the dog to heel from the down position and heels forward.

This exercise ends in a static position.



### 270° LEFT

25. **270 DEGREE LEFT (Turn).** While heeling, the dog/handler team makes a 270-degree turn that begins to the handler's left. The final direction taken toward the next exercise is to the right of the dog/handler team's original position.

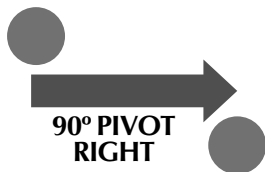


**360°  
LEFT**



26. **360 DEGREE LEFT (Turn).** While heeling, the dog/handler team makes a 360-degree turn (a complete circle) that begins to the handler's left. The final direction is the same as that of the dog/handler team before starting the exercise.

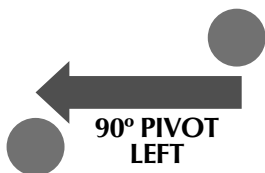
**90° PIVOT  
RIGHT**



27. **SIT - 90 DEGREE PIVOT RIGHT - SIT.**

The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler pivots 90 degrees on the spot to his/her right and stops. The dog moves with the handler and resumes a sit in the heel position when the handler stops. The handler then cues the dog to heel and moves forward. This exercise ends in a static position.

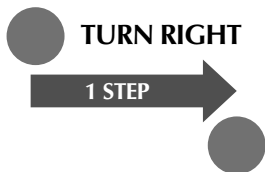
**90° PIVOT  
LEFT**



28. **SIT - 90 DEGREE PIVOT LEFT - SIT.** The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler pivots 90 degrees on the spot to his/her left and stops. The dog moves with the handler and resumes a sit in the heel position when the handler stops. The handler then cues the dog to heel and moves forward. This exercise ends in a static position.

**TURN RIGHT**

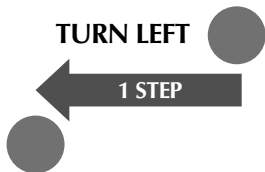
**1 STEP**



29. **SIT - TURN RIGHT - 1 STEP - SIT.** The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The dog then moves with the handler as they turn to the right and take one full step and stop with the dog sitting at heel. This exercise ends in a static position.

**TURN LEFT**

**1 STEP**



30. **SIT - TURN LEFT - 1 STEP - SIT.** The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The dog then moves with the handler as they turn to the left and take one full step and stop with the dog sitting at heel. This exercise ends in a static position.



31. **SIT - SEND AROUND - SIT.** The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler then sends the dog clockwise around behind them as though in a right finish and the dog completes the exercise sitting at heel. This exercise ends in a static position.



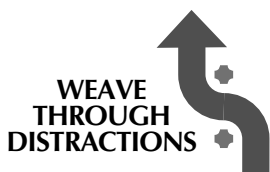
32. **SIT - SEND AROUND - FORWARD.** The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler then sends the dog clockwise around behind them as though in a right finish, as the dog returns to heel the handler and dog heel forward. The dog does not sit.



33. **SPIRAL RIGHT - DOG OUTSIDE.** Three cones are placed in a straight line approximately 1.5 metres apart. The "Right" direction indicates that the handler turns to his/her right when moving around each of the cones (clockwise). This places the dog on the outside of the turns. The sign is placed next to the first cone facing the direction of the dog/handler team's approach. The dog and handler pass the first cone and proceed to and around the third one, then loop the first cone, proceed to and around the second, then loop the first cone one last time before making an exit to the right.



34. **SPIRAL LEFT - DOG INSIDE.** Performed as in Exercise 33, except that the turns of the spiral are to the handler's left (anti-clockwise) and the dog is on the inside of the turns. The exit is made to the left, towards the next exercise.

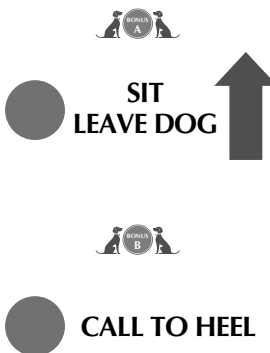


35. **WEAVE THROUGH DISTRACTIONS.** This exercise requires two freestanding mesh covers which are placed approximately 1.5 metres apart. The distractions are placed under the covers to prevent a dog which breaks heel position from being rewarded from accessing the distractions. The distractions will be an empty bowl under one cover and a toy under the other. The dog/handler team approach the sign on a straight line from the previous exercise with the first cover on their left, weave between the covers to exit with the second cover on their right. This is not a turn exercise.

### FINISH

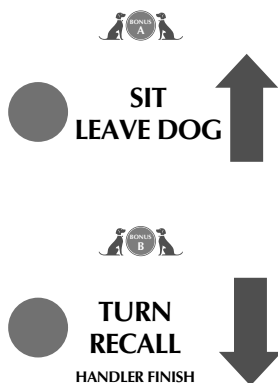


### BONUS



### Bonus Exercise 4

**SIT - LEAVE DOG - CALL TO HEEL.** This exercise requires two signs. At the first sign (A) the handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler may take the lead off or the dog may drag the lead. The handler walks to the second sign (B), which is placed approximately 2 metres from sign A. The handler will not turn to face the dog but instead, with his/her back to the dog, will call the dog to move to the heel position. The handler may turn his/her head slightly while cueing the dog to heel. The dog must come promptly and sit at heel. Once sitting, the exercise is considered complete. NB: If this bonus is used at Level 3 or above there is no requirement to reattach the lead before attempting this bonus exercise.

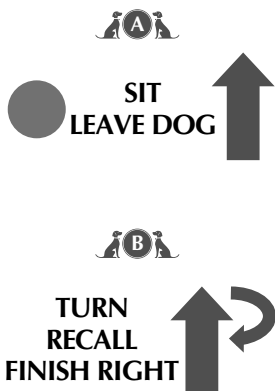
**Bonus Exercise 5****SIT - LEAVE DOG - TURN - RECALL - HANDLER FINISH.**

This exercise requires two signs. At the first sign (A) the handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler may take the lead off or the dog may drag the lead. The handler walks to the second sign (B), which is placed approximately 2 metres from sign A, turns and recalls the dog to the front position. The dog remains in the sit whilst the handler moves left to take up the heel position. Once the handler has moved to the heel position, the exercise is considered complete. This is not a walk around exercise.

NB: If this bonus is used at Level 3 or above there is no requirement to reattach the lead before attempting this bonus exercise.

**Level 3**

The 10 additional exercises and 3 additional bonus exercises for Level 3 are as follows:

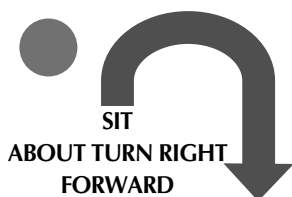
**START**

36. **SIT - LEAVE DOG - RECALL - FINISH RIGHT.** This exercise requires two signs. At the first sign (A) the handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler walks to the second sign (B), which is placed approximately 2 metres from sign A. The handler turns to face the dog, leaving ample room for the dog to complete a finish, the handler recalls the dog to the front position. With the dog sitting in front of the handler, the handler cues the dog to finish by moving from the front position to the handler's right, around behind the handler and finally sitting in the heel position. The handler then cues the dog to heel and moves forward. This exercise ends in a static position.

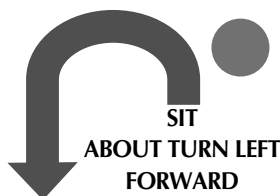


37. **SIT - LEAVE DOG - RECALL - FINISH LEFT.** This exercise requires two signs. At the first sign (A) the handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler walks to the second sign (B), which is placed approximately 2 metres from sign A. The handler turns to face the dog, leaving ample room for the dog to complete a finish, the handler recalls the dog to the front position. With the dog sitting in front of the handler, the handler cues the dog to finish, moving from the front position to the handler's left, and sitting in the heel position. The handler then cues the dog to heel and moves forward.

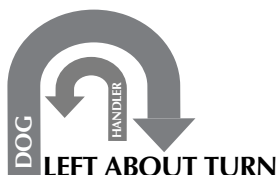
This exercise ends in a static position.



38. **SIT - ABOUT TURN RIGHT - FORWARD.** The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler cues the dog to heel, as they turn 180 degrees to his/her right, and immediately move forward with the dog in the heel position.



39. **SIT - ABOUT TURN LEFT - FORWARD.** The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler cues the dog to move, as they turn 180 degrees to his/her left, and immediately move forward with the dog in the heel position.



40. **LEFT ABOUT TURN.** While moving forward with the dog in the heel position, the handler does an about turn to his/her left, while the dog turns to the right, moving around the handler and back to the heel position to continue moving with the handler in the new (opposite) direction. That is, the dog and handler do "opposite" about turns and then come back together as a team.



**DOWN**

41. **DOWN.** The handler and dog stop and the handler cues the dog to drop directly into a down position. The dog does not sit first. When the dog is down, the handler cues the dog to heel, and moves forward.  
This exercise ends in a static position.



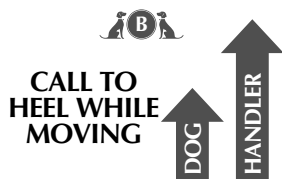
**STAND**

42. **STAND.** The handler and dog stop and the handler cues the dog to remain standing. The dog does not sit first. Once the dog is established in a stand the handler cues the dog to heel, and moves forward. This exercise looks as though the handler & dog team pause without the dog sitting or moving out of position.  
This exercise ends in a static position.



**SIT  
FAST  
FORWARD**

43. **SIT - FAST FORWARD.** The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler cues the dog to heel and moves immediately into a fast pace from the sit. This exercise must be followed by Exercise 17 (Normal Pace), or it may be placed as the last exercise on the course, in which case the exercise and performance are concluded as the dog/handler team crosses the Finish Line. This exercise requires approximately 4 metres between Exercise Sign 43 (Sit-Fast Forward) and Exercise Sign 17 (Normal Pace) or the Finish.



44. **SIT - LEAVE DOG - CALL TO HEEL WHILE MOVING.** This exercise requires two signs. At the first sign (A) the handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler walks to the second sign (B) which is placed approximately 1.5 metres from sign A. The handler calls the dog to heel as he/she passes sign B. The dog rejoins the handler in heelwork and they then heel to the next exercise which must be a minimum distance of 3 metres away from Sign B.

45. **LOOP AROUND DISTRACTIONS.** This exercise requires two freestanding mesh covers which are placed approximately 1.5 metres apart as in Exercise 35. The distractions are placed under the covers to prevent a dog which breaks heel position from being rewarded from accessing the distractions. The distractions will be an empty bowl under one cover and a toy under the other. The dog/handler team approach the sign on a straight line from the previous exercise with the first cover on their left, weave between the covers to loop the second cover on their right and weave back to exit with the first cover on their left. This is an about turn exercise.

### FINISH



**BONUS**



**BONUS EXERCISE 6**

**CALL FRONT - BACKUP 3 STEPS.** The Call Front part of this exercise is performed as in Exercise 11. Once the dog is sitting in front, the handler cues the dog to backup. The dog may stand first and then back up OR the dog may backup from a sit. The dog may not sit while backing up. The dog walks backwards as the handler moves forward three steps. The dog must remain in the front position while backing up. There is no finish.



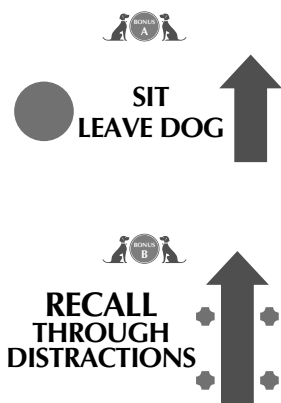
**BONUS EXERCISE 7**

**SIT - LEAVE DOG - TURN - DOWN.** This exercise requires two signs. At the first sign (A) the handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler walks to the second sign (B) which is placed approximately 2 metres away. The handler turns and faces the dog and cues the dog to down. The dog must not walk forward into the down. Once the dog is down the handler returns to the dog and stands at the heel position. The handler must return by passing the dog on the handler's right, turning around behind the dog and moving up into the heel position.



**TURN  
DOWN  
RETURN**



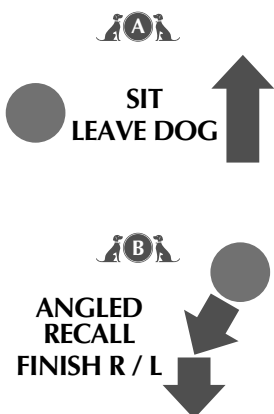
**BONUS EXERCISE 8****SIT - LEAVE DOG - RECALL THROUGH DISTRACTIONS.**

This exercise requires two signs. At the first sign (A) the handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler walks 2 metres before passing through four freestanding mesh covers with distractions which are placed in a square pattern 1.5 metres apart and then continuing a further 2 metres to the second sign (B). At the second sign the handler turns and faces the dog before recalling it through the distraction square. The dog must ignore the distractions and come directly to the handler and sit in the front position. There is no finish.

The distractions are placed under the covers to prevent a dog from being rewarded for accessing the distractions. The distractions will be two empty bowls and two toys, placed at the judge's discretion. The toys and bowls do not need to match each other.

**Level 4**

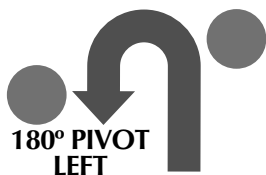
The 11 additional exercises and 1 additional bonus exercises for Level 4 are as follows:

**START**

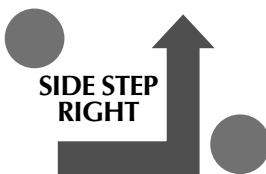
46. **SIT - LEAVE DOG - ANGLED RECALL - FINISH RIGHT OR LEFT.** This exercise requires two signs. At the first sign (A) the handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler walks to the second sign (B) which is placed 3 metres away and set 2 metres to either the right or left of sign A so that the dog is coming from an angle. At the second sign the handler turns and recalls the dog to the front position. The dog must come in at an angle and sit in the front position. The handler then cues the dog to Finish either Right or Left. This exercise ends in a static position.



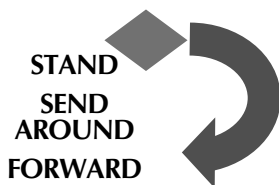
47. **SIT - 180 DEGREE PIVOT RIGHT - SIT.** The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel, the handler pivots 180 degrees to his/her right and stops. The dog moves with the handler and resumes a sit in the heel position when the handler stops. The handler then cues the dog to heel and moves forward. This exercise ends in a static position.



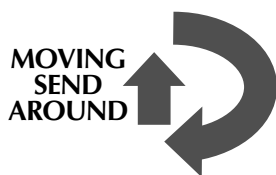
48. **SIT - 180 DEGREE PIVOT LEFT - SIT.** The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel, the handler pivots 180 degrees to his/her left and stops. The dog moves with the handler and resumes a sit in the heel position when the handler stops. The handler then cues the dog to heel and moves forward. This exercise ends in a static position.



49. **SIT - SIDE STEP RIGHT - SIT.** The handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler takes one side step directly to his/her right with the right foot and the dog moves sideways with the handler as the handler's left foot moves to meet the right foot. The dog moves sideways to the right into the heel position and sits. The handler then cues the dog to heel and moves forward. This exercise ends in a static position. NB: The sign should be placed in the handler's path so that the dog is in front of the sign as they stop to perform the exercise. After completion of the side step the dog/handler team pass with the sign on the handler's left.



50. **STAND - SEND AROUND - FORWARD.** The handler and dog stop with the dog remaining in the stand, the dog does not sit. The handler then sends the dog clockwise around behind them as though in a right finish, as the dog returns to heel the handler and dog heel forward. The dog does not sit.



51. **MOVING SEND AROUND.** Whilst heeling the handler sends the dog clockwise around behind them as though in a right finish, the dog must be allowed to regain the heel position before the handler and dog heel forward. The dog does not sit. This should be a flowing movement.



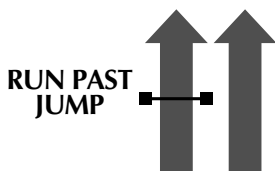
52. **STAND - WALK AROUND.** The handler and dog stop and the handler cues the dog to remain standing. The dog does not sit first. The handler then walks around the dog anticlockwise and returns to heel position and the dog/handler team heels forward. This exercise ends in a static position.



53. **DOWN - WALK AROUND.** The handler and dog stop and the handler cues the dog to drop directly into a down position. The dog does not sit first. The handler then walks around the dog anticlockwise and returns to the heel position and the dog/handler team heels forward. This exercise ends in a static position.



54. **SIT - LEAVE DOG - DOWN ON RECALL.** This exercise requires two signs. At the first sign (A) the handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler walks to the second sign (B) which is placed approximately 4.5 metres from sign A. The handler turns and faces the dog and recalls the dog. At any time during the recall, the handler cues the dog to down. Once the dog is down, the handler recalls the dog again. The dog must come and sit in the front position. The handler should ensure that they drop the dog leaving sufficient space for the second recall. The handler then cues the dog to Finish either Right or Left. This exercise ends in a static position.



55. **RUN PAST JUMP.** As the dog and handler team approach the sign the handler should quicken their pace to move briskly towards the jump which is 4 metres in front of and to the left of their path. The handler sends the dog over the jump as they pass alongside. When the dog has completed the jump, the handler calls the dog to the heel position and the dog/handler team return to their normal pace as they heel towards the next exercise approximately 4 metres ahead. If the dog is much faster than the handler, the dog may be called back to the handler without penalty. The judge may choose to replace the jump with a hoop, in which case the distance before and after the hoop is reduced to 2 metres.



56. **SIT LEAVE DOG - RECALL OVER JUMP.** This exercise requires two signs. At the first sign (A) the handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The jump must be approximately 4 metres from sign (A). The handler cues the dog to wait then walks to the second sign (B) which is approximately 4 metres away from the opposite side of the jump. The handler turns and faces the dog and recalls the dog. The dog must come over the jump and sit in front of the handler. The handler then cues the dog to Finish either Right or Left. The judge may choose to replace the jump with a hoop, in which case the distance before and after the hoop is reduced to 2 metres. This exercise ends in a static position.

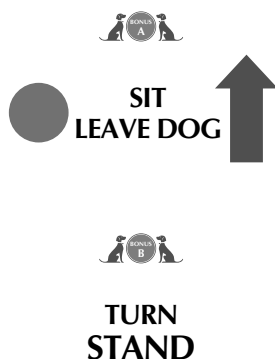


**FINISH**



**BONUS**

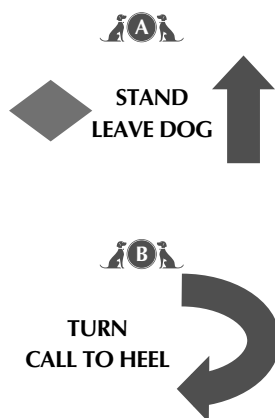


**BONUS EXERCISE 9**

**SIT - LEAVE DOG - TURN - STAND.** This exercise requires two signs. At the first sign (A) the handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler walks to the second sign (B) which is placed 2 metres away. The handler turns and faces the dog and cues the dog to stand. The dog must achieve a stationary stand and may move no more than its own body length to achieve this. The exercise is completed once the dog is standing. The handler may then either recall or rejoin the dog.

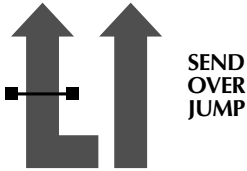
**Level 5**

The 6 additional exercises and 2 additional bonus exercises for Level 5 are as follows:

**START**

**57 STAND - LEAVE DOG - TURN - CALL TO HEEL.** This exercise requires two signs. The handler and dog stop at the first sign (A) and the handler cues the dog to remain standing. The dog does not sit first. The handler then walks to the second sign (B), which is placed approximately 2 metres from sign A. The handler turns and faces the dog, then calls the dog to come directly to the heel position without coming to front first. The dog may go straight to heel or pass behind the handler as though in a right finish. The dog does not have to sit in the heel position, unless the handler wishes them to do so. The dog/handler team then heels forward.

## MOVING BACKUP HEEL BACK 3 STEPS

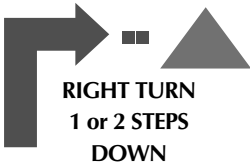


**SEND  
OVER  
JUMP**

58. **MOVING BACKUP.** While heeling, the handler cues the dog to backup from a standing position. The handler takes three steps back while the dog heels backward with the handler, then moves forward. The dog may not sit before backing up.

### 59. **SEND OVER JUMP - HANDLER RUNS BY**

As the handler and dog team approach the sign the handler sends the dog towards the jump which is approximately 4 metres in front of and 1.5 metres to the left of their path. The handler continues at a brisk pace along a line 1.5 metres to the right of the jump. When the dog has completed the jump, the handler calls the dog to the heel position and the dog/handler team return to their normal pace as the heel towards the next exercise approximately 4 metres ahead. If the dog is much faster than the handler, the dog may be called back to the handler without penalty. A line may be drawn on the ground to indicate the 1.5 metres mark. The judge may choose to replace the jump with a hoop, in which case the distance before and after the hoop is reduced to 2 metres.

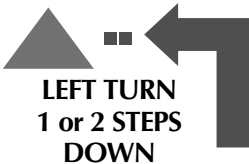


**RIGHT TURN  
1 or 2 STEPS  
DOWN**

### 60. **RIGHT TURN - 1 or 2 STEPS - DOWN.**

The handler turns to the right, cueing the dog to move with him/her. After turning and taking 1 or 2 steps the handler stops, cueing the dog to drop directly into a down position without first sitting. When the dog is down, the handler cues the dog to heel forward.

This exercise ends in a static position.



**LEFT TURN  
1 or 2 STEPS  
DOWN**

61. **LEFT TURN - 1 or 2 STEPS - DOWN.** The handler turns to the left, cueing the dog to move with him/her. After turning and taking 1 or 2 steps the handler stops, cueing the dog to drop directly into a down position without first sitting. When the dog is down, the handler cues the dog to heel forward.

This exercise ends in a static position.

# CALL FRONT ABOUT TURN RIGHT FORWARD



## 62. **CALL FRONT - ABOUT TURN RIGHT - FORWARD.**

The Call Front portion of this exercise is performed as in Exercise 11. For the second part of the exercise, the handler will do an about turn to the right, in front of the dog while cueing the dog to move with him/her into the heel position. Once the handler starts their about turn no further stop is required.

## **FINISH**



## **BONUS**



# TURN SIT RETRIEVE FINISH R/L



## **BONUS EXERCISE 10.**

**TURN - SIT - RETRIEVE - FINISH.** Before beginning the course, the handler will give the ring steward or judge a retrieve object (no food or any injurious item). As the dog/handler team is heeling to the sign, the ring steward or judge will unobtrusively place the retrieve object on the ground approximately 4.5 metres from the sign. This will be done whilst the dog/handler team's back is to the steward / judge so the dog cannot see the object being placed. At the sign, the dog/handler team will turn to face the retrieve object and stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler may direct the dog to look at the retrieve object before sending the dog to pick up the object and return to the front position. The handler takes the object from the dog and finishes the dog either Left or Right.



**TURN  
RETURN**

#### **BONUS EXERCISE 11**

**DOWN ON THE MOVE - TURN - RETURN TO DOG.** This exercise requires two signs. As they approach the first sign (A) the handler will cue the dog to drop directly into the down while the handler continues walking. There should be no pause in the handler's pace as they proceed to the next sign. At the second sign (B), which is placed approximately 2 metres from sign A the handler will perform a 180 degree turn and return to the dog. The handler must return by passing the dog on the handler's right, turning around behind the dog and moving up into the heel position. The exercise is then complete.

### **Level 6**

*The 6 additional exercises and 2 additional bonus exercises for Level 6 are as follows:*



**DOWN  
SIT  
RECALL  
FINISH R/L**

63. **STAND - LEAVE DOG - DOWN - SIT - RECALL - FINISH.** This exercise requires two signs. The handler and dog stop at the first sign (A) and the handler cues the dog to remain standing. The dog does not sit first. The handler walks to the second sign (B) and turns and faces the dog, approximately 2 metres away. The handler cues the dog to Down, then Sit, then recalls the dog. Once the dog is sitting in front, the handler cues the dog to Finish Left or Right. This exercise ends in a static position.

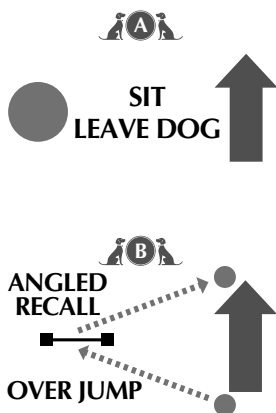




64. **STAND - LEAVE DOG - DOWN ON RECALL - RETURN.** This exercise requires two signs. The handler and dog stop at the first sign (A) and the handler cues the dog to remain standing. The dog does not sit first. The handler walks to the second sign (B) approximately 4.5 metres away. The handler turns and faces the dog and recalls the dog. The handler cues the dog to drop directly into the down aiming to drop the dog approximately halfway. Once the dog is down the handler returns to the dog by passing the dog on the handler's right, turning around behind the dog and moving up into the heel position cueing the dog to heel forward from the down.



65. **DOWN ON MOVE - RECALL TO HEEL - SEND AROUND.** This exercise requires two signs. As the dog / handler team approach the first sign (A) the handler will cue the dog to drop directly into the down while the handler continues walking. There should be no pause in the handler's pace as they proceed to the next sign (B) which is placed approximately 3 metres away. The handler will stop at this sign. The handler will not turn to face the dog but instead, with his/her back to the dog, will call the dog to move to the heel position. The handler may turn his/her head slightly while cueing the dog to heel. The dog must come promptly, the handler then sends the dog clockwise around behind them as though in a right finish, the handler may pause to allow the dog to regain the heel position as the dog returns to heel the handler and dog heel forward. The dog does not sit. This should be a flowing movement.



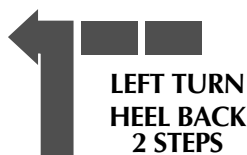
66. **SIT - LEAVE DOG - ANGLED RECALL OVER JUMP.**

This exercise requires two signs. At the first sign (A) the handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The jump must be approximately 4 metres from sign (A). The handler cues the dog to wait then walks to the second sign (B) which is placed approximately 4 metres away from the jump and 1.5 metres to either the right or left of the jump. The handler turns and faces the dog and cues the dog to jump. The dog must come over the jump and sit straight in front of the handler. The handler then cues the dog to Finish either Right or Left. The judge may choose to replace the jump with a hoop, in which case the distance before and after the hoop is reduced to 2 metres.

This exercise ends in a static position.



67. **RIGHT TURN - BACKUP.** The handler turns to the right, cueing the dog to move with him/her. As they turn they immediately take 2 paces back along the new direction while the dog heels backward with the handler, then the dog/handler move forward. The dog does not sit before backing up.



68. **LEFT TURN - BACKUP.** The handler turns to the left, cueing the dog to move with him/her. As they turn they immediately take 2 paces back along the new direction while the dog heels backward with the handler, then the dog/handler move forward. The dog does not sit before backing up.

**FINISH**



**BONUS**

**SIT**  
**SEND BACK**  
**RETRIEVE**  
**FINISH R/L**

**BONUS EXERCISE 12.**

**SEND BACK FOR RETRIEVE - FINISH.** Before beginning the course, the handler will give the ring steward or judge a retrieve object (no food or any injurious item). As the dog/handler team is heeling to the sign, the ring steward or judge will unobtrusively place the retrieve object on the ground approximately 4.5 metres from the exercise sign. This will be done while the dog/handler team's back is to the steward/judge so the dog cannot see the object being placed. At the sign, the handler and dog will stop with the dog at heel. The handler will take a step forward and turn to stand in front of the dog. They will then send the dog back to pick up the retrieve object and return to the front position. The handler takes the object from the dog and finishes the dog either Left or Right. NB: in order to achieve the send back the dog does an about turn in front of the handler.



**SEND**  
**AROUND**  
**POLE**  
**LOOP TO**  
**HEEL**

**BONUS EXERCISE 13.****SEND AROUND POLE - LOOP TO HEEL - FORWARD.**

The handler and dog stop at the sign with the dog sitting at heel. The handler cues the dog to go forward to a pole or large cone 1.5 metres in front, the dog performs a circuit by looping around the pole to their right, returning and looping behind the handler to return to heel. As the dog reaches the side of the handler it does not sit but is cued directly to heel as the handler performs an about turn right. This should be a flowing movement ending with the dog and handler heeling back past the Bonus Start sign. The exercise is then complete.

## **CHIEF STEWARDS**

### **INSTRUCTIONS AS TO THE DUTIES OF RALLY CHIEF STEWARDS**

#### **1. Authority/responsibilities.**

- a. A chief steward should have appropriate competitive Rally experience, a sound knowledge of the Royal Kennel Club Rules and S Regulations, and a familiarity with the Royal Kennel Club complaints procedure.
- b. Before agreeing to serve as a Chief Steward at a Royal Kennel Club licensed Rally competition a chief steward must have:
  - (1) attended a Royal Kennel Club Rally Regulations and Judging Procedure Seminar and passed the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination every five years since passing the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination.
  - (2) attended a Royal Kennel Club Practical Judging Seminar.
- c. A chief steward's responsibilities are to ensure that competitors and judges at all times abide by the Royal Kennel Club Rules and S Regulations.
- d. A chief steward acts as decision maker in all matters relating to the Royal Kennel Club Rules and S Regulations for the duration of the show.
- e. A chief steward must fully document all decisions and actions taken in relation to the S Regulations in the Show's Royal Kennel Club Incident Book.
- f. A chief steward supports the show management team in the smooth running of the show.

#### **2. Duties.**

- a. The show executive shall appoint a chief steward whose name must be announced in the schedule, and who must not enter for competition a dog which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership or work a dog or act in any other capacity at the show.
- b. In the event of extreme adverse conditions at a show a judge may alter exercises as deemed appropriate at the time and must always obtain full agreement of the chief steward unless in an emergency situation. The chief steward must be advised of the change and the reasons for it at the earliest opportunity. Any alteration to exercises must be reported by the show management to the Royal Kennel Club within 14 days of the date of the show.
- c. Should a judge be prevented from completing a class which has commenced, the chief steward shall decide what action is to be taken.
- d. The chief steward and the show management must act to remove a dog from the show under the conditions of Regulation S25 (Removal of Dogs).
- e. The chief steward alone shall be responsible for the control of any running order, which may be relaxed in exceptional circumstances. In such cases, the competitor will be required to work as directed by the chief steward and judge(s) of the relevant class(es) whose joint decision shall be final. All such decisions must be recorded in the show's Royal Kennel Club incident book.

## REGULATIONS FOR ENTRIES IN THE STUD BOOK, CHAMPIONS AND WARRANTS

As at 1st January 2026

### 3. Warrants.

#### f. Rally Warrants

A Rally Warrant will be issued on application by the registered owner at the time of qualification in respect of a dog that has obtained the following:

- (1) a Rally Level 6 Excellent title
- (2) an additional 3 excellent scores at Level 6, which must be gained after 1 January 2021

The title 'RW' may be used after the name of the dog on competition entries and in catalogues. The RW title will replace the RL6.Ex after the dog's name.

## ROYAL KENNEL CLUB REGULATIONS FOR CLASSIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

As at 1st January 2026

### **20. Dogs for competitions.**

Dogs entered for any form of Royal Kennel Club competition i.e. show classes, field trials, gundog working tests, obedience, working trials, agility, heelwork to music, and rally must be registered in the name of the person(s) making the entry. If, at the closing date for entries, the owner(s) have applied for but have not received the Royal Kennel Club registration certificate, the dog shall be entered in the name shown as the first choice on the application form for registration and the name should be followed by the letters 'N.A.F' (name applied for). In the case of applications for transfer of ownership and change of name, the dog should be entered 'T.A.F.' (transfer applied for) 'C.N.A.F.' (change of name applied for) where application has been made but not received. Dogs are exempt from registration in the following cases:-

- a. Dogs either exhibited exclusively in classes specially exempted by the Royal Kennel Club Board or in special classes sanctioned by the Board.
- b. Hounds belonging to recognised packs.

**ROYAL KENNEL CLUB REGULATIONS FOR THE  
REGISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE OF TITLE  
OF SOCIETIES, BRANCHES AND BREED COUNCILS  
AND THE AFFILIATION OF AGRICULTURAL  
SOCIETIES AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES**

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*As at 1st January 2026*

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**5. General**

- c. A Royal Kennel Club licence is issued to the designated society only and it is non transferable under any circumstances.

**Contact Details for Liaison Council Representatives – Rally**

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## RALLY REGULATION AMENDMENTS

### Amendment to regulation S7

Regulation S7. Societies are required to apply for permission to hold Special Events.

**TO:**

Applications should be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club by email at least six ~~weeks~~ **months** before the start of any qualifying heats for the event.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

### Amendment to regulation S9.a

Regulation S9.a. Application to Host a Rally competition.

**TO:**

- a. The application to hold a competition must be submitted to the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club and must be accompanied by the appropriate licence fee at least six ~~weeks~~ **months** before the proposed date of the competition.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

### Amendment to regulation S15(f)

Regulation S15(f) Documentation

**TO:**

- (f) A list of ring numbers for each individual dog and handler team.**

(Insertions in bold. Subsequent items to be renumbered)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

### Amendment to regulation S16(e)

Regulation S16(e) Facilities and Equipment

**TO:**

- ~~(e) Ring numbers for dog and handler identification.~~

(Deletion struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

### Amendment to regulation S19

#### Regulation S19

##### TO:

- a. The host organisation shall provide printed awards to a minimum of fourth place in all classes.
- b. The host organisation shall also provide qualification certificates ~~and/or qualifying rosettes~~ to all dogs which receive a qualifying score **in standard classes at Open Rally competitions. The wording must clearly state the organising society or club, the date of the competition, the dog's Registered Royal Kennel Club name, the score gained and the judge's name and signature. The Certificate must state that it is a qualifying score. These certificates are proof of qualification which would be relied on in case of dispute for any future award.**
- c. Other rosettes and special awards may be offered at the discretion of the competition host, **these must be clearly stated in the Schedule.**
- d. In standard classes, rosettes and/or place cards may not be awarded to dogs that have received a non-qualifying score for any of the reasons listed in the non-qualifying scoring regulations.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

### Amendment to regulation S(B)1(f)

#### Regulation S(B)1(f)

##### TO:

Unless specified in the exercise description, exercises ~~are executed~~ **start** as the handler approaches the sign

(Insertions in bold) (Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

### Addition to Regulation S(B)2

#### Regulation S(B)2 Course design:

##### TO:

- (3) **The angled recall and angled recall over jump exercises may each be used twice in a course to enable them to be laid in both directions, once to the left and once to the right.**

(Insertions in bold. Subsequent points to be renumbered)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

### Amendment to regulation S(B)2(1)

Regulation S(B)2(1) Performance and Scoring Guidelines and Competition Management

**TO:**

2. Course Design.

- (1) There ~~should~~ **must** be a minimum distance of 2.5 metres between exercises. **This minimum can be extended where space permits excluding changes of pace.**

(Insertions in bold) (Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

### Amendment to Regulation S(B)4.d

Regulation S(B)4.d

**TO:**

Tied scores for place awards - In the event that two or more dog/handler teams score an equal number of points, ~~the team(s) with the fastest recorded time(s) shall be placed above those with slower times. In the event that one or more such dog/handler teams have equal scores and equal times or where at least one of the competitors has not had a time recorded,~~ they shall be invited to participate in a run-off using ~~the~~ **a Bonus exercise appropriate to the level. The run off bonus should be stated on the course plan submitted to the Secretary and/or the Chief Steward.**

(Insertions in bold. Deletions stuck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

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