

ANKC Rules Review – RallyO

Proposed implementation: 1st January 2021?

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Rule	Summary of Proposal
Class Titles and Qualifying Performance	
RN	Increase to 80 points, 5 passes, 3 judges
RA	Increase to 6 passes, 3 judges
RE	Increase to 8 passes, 3 judges
RM	Increase to 90 points, 10 passes, 4 judges
Multiple suffixes RM (new rule)	Allow multiple titles after RM title
RO.CH	Increase to 93 points, 4 judges
Retry	Increase deduction to 5 points
Distance control markers (new rule)	Mandatory to be placed in all exercises
Scoring (all Classes)	Adjusted to reflect proposals

Sign #	Sign Description	Summary of Proposal	Level
#4	Halt – Down	Handler must return to an upright stationery position	N, A, X, M - #4
#7	*About Turn – Right	Maintain continuous motion	N, A, X, M - #7
#8	*About “U” Turn	Maintain continuous motion	N, A, X, M - #8
#9	*270° Right Turn	Maintain continuous motion	N, A, X, M - #9
#10	*270° Left Turn	Maintain continuous motion	N, A, X, M - #10
#11	360° Right Turn	Maintain continuous motion	N, A, X, M - #11
#12	360° Left Turn	Maintain continuous motion	N, A, X, M - #12
#27	Moving – Down	Handler must return to an upright stationery position	N, A, X, M - #727
#35	Halt - Turn Right One Step – Call to Heel – Halt	Dog must stay until called up	A, X, M - #35
#36	Halt - Stand Dog - Walk Around	No touching or moving forward in Advanced	A, X, M - #36
#37	Halt - 90° Pivot Right – Halt	Handler must not take steps forward	A, X, M - #37
#38	Halt - 90° Pivot Left – Halt	Handler must not take steps forward	A, X, M - #38
#40	Halt - Side-step Right – Halt	Dog moves parallel with handler	A, X, M - #40
#43	Halt - 180° Pivot Right – Halt	Maintain continuous motion	A, X, M - #43
#43	Halt - 180° Pivot Right – Halt	Move from Advanced to Excellent	A, X, M - #43
#44	Halt - 180° Pivot Left – Halt	Maintain continuous motion	A, X, M - #44
#44	Halt - 180° Pivot Left – Halt	Move from Advanced to Excellent	A, X, M - #44
#45	Halt - Down – Sit	Handler must return to an upright stationery position	A, X, M - #45
#48	Halt - Stand – Down	Handler must return to an upright stationery position	X, M - #48
#49	Moving Stand - Walk Around Dog	No stopping & allow paddling into position	X, M - #49
#50	Halt – Leave Dog – Recall	Remove approximate 5 metres	X, M - #50
#53	Backup 3 Steps	Must maintain heel position moving backwards	M - #53
#54	Halt – Leave Dog – Down – Sit – Distance Commands – Return	Set distance and no surging forward	M - #54
#55	Stand – Leave Dog – Down - Sit – Distance Commands – Return	No sit and no surging forward	M - #55
#56	Moving Stand – Leave Dog – Distance Down	No sitting or moving forward	M - #56
#57	Moving Down - Walk Around Dog	No stopping	M - #57
#58	Moving Sit – Walk Around Dog	No stopping	M - #58
#59	Halt – Leave Dog - Call To Heel	Not keeping hand out after call up	M - #59

Class Titles and Qualifying Performance:

R.N. – signifying Rally Novice - Three (3) qualifying scores of **75** points or more must be earned under at least two different Judges in Novice class to earn a title.

(TAS) Proposed changes Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

R.N. – signifying Rally Novice - ~~Three (3)~~ **Five (5)** qualifying scores of ~~75 points~~ **80 points** or more must be earned under at least ~~two~~ **three (3)** different Judges in Novice class to earn a title.

(TAS) Rationale Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

Competitors are moving through the levels very quickly, and in some instances, new competitors are not spending enough time in the lower levels before gaining titles, and then being required to move up. At the moment, a competitor can title in 3 trials. This is not nearly enough time for the dog and/or handler to be exposed to a trial environment or gain the necessary skills to progress to the next level. Increasing the number of passes required in Novice will help to ensure a more natural progression to Advanced

Increase qualifying score from 75 points to 80 points, so that it is consistent for Novice, Advanced and Excellent. Handlers and dogs that have scored between 75 – 79 points in Novice are not at a qualifying mark for when they move up to Advanced. So not only would they need to work off lead and also learn new stations, they also need to score more points. So, by increasing the pass mark to 80, it's one less thing they need to potentially work on

Increase the number of different judges from 2 to 3, so that there is more diversity to demonstrate a good working dog under a range of different judges

Any passes accumulated until the date of the new rules taking effect are retained, and can go towards the respective title for the class the handler and dog are in

General comments about increasing number of passes and qualifying score (where applicable) in each class.

There are lot of discussions generally on people getting stuck in a class they have advanced to and learning new stations. There are several social media sites (e.g.: RallyO Australia), where people continuously post on problems they are having. It could be argued that the handler and/or dog have progressed too quickly, and the necessary skills are still in the process of being taught. It would advantageous if the team had a few more trials at the class they are in, while they are learning the elements of the next class and perfecting their skills in the current class. Ultimately the dog's confidence should be protected, and there should not be any rush to get the dog to the next level if the team is not yet ready.

This has been proven in agility where the pass mark has been increased for all levels, and the overall performance of teams has improved.

Class Titles and Qualifying Performance:

R.A. – signifying Rally Advanced - Three (3) qualifying scores of **80** points or more must be earned under at least two different judges in Advanced Class to earn a title.

(TAS) Proposed changes Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

R.A. – signifying Rally Advanced - ~~Three (3)~~ **Six (6)** qualifying scores of **80** points or more must be earned under at least ~~two~~ **three (3)** different Judges in Novice class to earn a title.

(TAS) Rationale Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

Competitors are moving through the levels very quickly, and in some instances, new competitors are not spending enough time in the lower levels before gaining titles, and then being required to move up. At the moment, a competitor can title in 3 trials. This is not nearly enough time for the dog and/or handler to be exposed to a trial environment or gain the necessary skills to progress to the next level. Increasing the number of passes required in Advanced will help to ensure a more natural progression to Excellent

Increase the number of different judges from 2 to 3, so that there is more diversity to demonstrate a good working dog under a range of different judges

Any passes accumulated until the date of the new rules taking effect are retained, and can go towards the respective title for the class the handler and dog are in

General comments about increasing number of passes and qualifying score (where applicable) in each class.

There are lot of discussions generally on people getting stuck in a class they have advanced to and learning new stations. There are several social media sites (e.g.: RallyO Australia), where people continuously post on problems they are having. It could be argued that the handler and/or dog have progressed too quickly, and the necessary skills are still in the process of being taught. It would advantageous if the team had a few more trials at the class they are in, while they are learning the elements of the next class and perfecting their skills in the current class. Ultimately the dog's confidence should be protected, and there should not be any rush to get the dog to the next level if the team is not yet ready.

This has been proven in agility where the pass mark has been increased for all levels, and the overall performance of teams has improved.

Class Titles and Qualifying Performance:

R.E. – signifying Rally Excellent - Five (5) qualifying scores of **80** points or more must be earned under at least two different Judges in Excellent class to earn a title.

(TAS) Proposed changes Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

R.E. – signifying Rally Excellent - ~~Five (5)~~ **Eight (8)** qualifying scores of **80** points or more must be earned under at least ~~two~~ **three (3)** different Judges in Novice class to earn a title.

(TAS) Rationale Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

Increasing the number of passes required in Excellent will help to ensure a more natural progression to Masters and Champion level. Each class should be getting the handler and dog ready for the level above where they are at.

Any passes accumulated until the date of the new rules taking effect are retained, and can go towards the respective title for the class the handler and dog are in

General comments about increasing number of passes and qualifying score (where applicable) in each class.

There are lot of discussions generally on people getting stuck in a class they have advanced to and learning new stations. There are several social media sites (e.g.: RallyO Australia), where people continuously post on problems they are having. It could be argued that the handler and/or dog have progressed too quickly, and the necessary skills are still in the process of being taught. It would advantageous if the team had a few more trials at the class they are in, while they are learning the elements of the next class and perfecting their skills in the current class. Ultimately the dog's confidence should be protected, and there should not be any rush to get the dog to the next level if the team is not yet ready.

This has been proven in agility where the pass mark has been increased for all levels, and the overall performance of teams has improved.

Class Titles and Qualifying Performance:

R.M. – signifying Rally Master - Seven (7) qualifying scores of **85** points or more must be earned under at least three different judges in Master class to earn a title.

(TAS) Proposed changes Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

R.M. – signifying Rally Master - ~~Seven (7)~~ **Ten (10)** qualifying scores of ~~85 points~~ **90 points** or more must be earned under at least ~~three~~ **four (4)** different judges in Master class to earn a title.

(TAS) Rationale Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

Rally Master is where the elite dogs have progressed, and it should showcase the skills necessary for that level, similar to Master Agility, Master Jumping and Utility Dog in Obedience. It is the top level for this discipline, and where the Champion title comes from. As such, handlers and dogs should not be able to pass by doing an IP, or by losing more than 10 points (10% of total points available), therefore the qualifying score should increase from 85 points to 90 points.

Increasing the number of passes required from 7 to 10 ensures a more natural progression through to champion level where the current number of passes required is 10.

Increase the number of different judges from 3 to 4, so that there is more diversity to demonstrate a good working dog under a range of different judges

Any passes accumulated until the date of the new rules taking effect are retained, and can go towards the respective title for the class the handler and dog are in

General comments about increasing number of passes and qualifying score (where applicable) in each class.

There are lot of discussions generally on people getting stuck in a class they have advanced to and learning new stations. There are several social media sites (e.g.: RallyO Australia), where people continuously post on problems they are having. It could be argued that the handler and/or dog have progressed too quickly, and the necessary skills are still in the process of being taught. It would advantageous if the team had a few more trials at the class they are in, while they are learning the elements of the next class and perfecting their skills in the current class. Ultimately the dog's confidence should be protected, and there should not be any rush to get the dog to the next level if the team is not yet ready.

This has been proven in agility where the pass mark has been increased for all levels, and the overall performance of teams has improved.

(TAS) Proposed New Rule
Class Titles and Qualifying Performance
Multiplier suffixes for RM

Multiplier suffixes for RM may be awarded for multiples of ten (10) certificates gained after the completion of the Rally Masters title e.g. 20 RM qualifications is equal to RM3

Applications may be made for any multiplier suffix title without requiring applications for any predecessor suffixes i.e. an owner may apply directly for RM7 without any requirement to apply and pay for RM2, RM3, RM4, RM5 and RM6 titles

After the RM Rally Masters title has been gained, any pass obtained of 93 or more points can go towards Rally Champion title, as well as the multiplier suffix. i.e. a score of 92 points will only go towards RM2, a score of 95 points during RM2 accumulation will also count towards RO.CH, a score of 95 points during RM6 accumulation will also count towards RO.CH. There is no timeframe to achieve Rally Champion while also accumulating multiplier suffixes, and there is no requirement to achieve Rally Champion and/or multiple suffixes

(TAS) Rationale Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

Handlers should be allowed to accumulate multiple suffixes of the RM title to show for the work that has been put in to achieve these results. It also enables those who may not ever qualify for the champion title something to strive towards, and helps keep people in the sport, who may have dropped out after achieving their champion title because in their eyes there is nothing else to achieve

Class Titles and Qualifying Performance:

RO. CH - signifying Rally Obedience Champion. The Member Body will receive applications for the title of Rally Obedience Champion RO.CH in connection with each dog which, having **gained** its Rally Master (RM) title, thereafter gains a further ten (10) qualifying scores of **90** or more points in the Rally Master Class under at least three (3) different Judges. **(Amended 02/16, EM#130)**

(TAS) Proposed changes Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

RO. CH - signifying Rally Obedience Champion. The Member Body will receive applications for the title of Rally Obedience Champion RO.CH in connection with each dog which, having gained its Rally Master (RM) title, thereafter gains a further ten (10) qualifying scores of ~~90 or more points~~ **95 or more points** in the Rally Master Class under at least ~~three (3)~~ **four (4)** different Judges. **(Amended 02/16, EM#130).**

(TAS) Rationale Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

Rally Champion is the ultimate title. A champion title should only be for those who have performed at the elite level consistently. As such, handlers and dogs should not be able to retry, or IP and still qualify for a champion title while working at the top level. Qualifying scores in the high 90's is what would define a true champion.

Increase the number of different judges from 3 to 4, so that there is more diversity to demonstrate a good working dog under a range of different judges

Retry:

Where a team attempts a station and fails to perform the elements of the station correctly on the first attempt, the Handler may choose to retry that station with a three (3) point deduction. The Handler must clearly indicate to the Judge that they are about to retry the station. The station must be retried immediately, in its entirety in the correct position in relation to the station sign.

Retries are not allowed if a team has already committed an error that would result in a non-qualifying score for the course, or if it is specified in an exercise description that retries are not allowed.

Any deductions incurred as the Handler repeats the station are added to the -3 points already incurred for attempting the retry. If the Handler fails to perform the station correctly on the second attempt they will incur a total deduction of 13 points for that station.

A maximum of two (2) retries are allowed per course. Where a handler attempts more than two (2) retries they will incur a non-qualifying score.

(TAS) Proposed changes Retry

Retry:

Where a team attempts a station and fails to perform the elements of the station correctly on the first attempt, the Handler may choose to retry that station with a ~~three (3)~~ five (5) point deduction. The Handler must clearly indicate to the Judge that they are about to retry the station. The station must be retried immediately, in its entirety in the correct position in relation to the station sign.

Retries are not allowed if a team has already committed an error that would result in a non-qualifying score for the course, or if it is specified in an exercise description that retries are not allowed.

Any deductions incurred as the Handler repeats the station are added to the ~~-3 points~~ -5 points already incurred for attempting the retry. If the Handler fails to perform the station correctly on the second attempt they will incur a total deduction of ~~13 points~~ 15 points for that station.

A maximum of two (2) retries are allowed per course. Where a handler attempts more than two (2) retries they will incur a non-qualifying score.

(TAS) Rationale Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

A retry is halfway to an IP, so the score should reflect this. It needs to be a more severe penalty than 3 points, which can be deducted for handler error (for example). Retries are often demotivating to the dog, and often affect the dog's confidence if not used correctly.

A team could have a 3-point deduction, and an otherwise perfect round, and place 2nd to a team that has had 1 retry with an otherwise perfect round. The team with the retry should be penalised more severely than a simple handler error, due to the nature of the error that has been made.

(TAS) Proposed New Rule

Equipment

Distance Control Markers

For all stations that require a distance control, a marker indicating the distance the handler is required to lead out to must be placed on the ground for each of these stations.

(TAS) Rationale Equipment Distance Control Markers

To allow consistency so that everyone is walking out to the same spot and completing the station to the same standard. Sometimes people think they are pacing to the correct distance, and they actually aren't. This will also take the guesswork out for judges, and they can judge everyone to the same standard. Every handler and dog is then on a level playing field.

Scoring (all Classes):

Scoring for all levels is based on a maximum score of 100 points.

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

There shall be no ½ point penalties in Rally Obedience.

The following deductions shall apply:

1 point deduction for each of the following:

- Tight lead
- Dog interfering with Handler's forward motion
- Poor sits, downs and stands
- Slow or resistant response
- Touching a pylon, post or course distractions
- Touching or hitting a jump without dislodgement
- Out of position

3 point deduction for each of the following:

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

1 to 10 point deduction:

- Lack of teamwork
- Lack of briskness
- Handler error

10 point deduction for each of the following:

- Incorrectly performed station (including Failure to clear a jump)

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

- Minimum requirements not met
- Dog unmanageable, or uncontrolled barking
- Consistently tight lead
- Dog relieving itself in the ring
- Handler error
- Station not attempted
- Failure of a dog to go over a jump in the proper direction
- Attempting more than two (2) retries
- Performing a station out of sequence
- Where a station is rendered unusable

(TAS) Proposed changes Scoring (all Classes):

Scoring (all Classes):

Scoring for all levels is based on a maximum score of 100 points.

Any faults in traditional Obedience that would be evaluated and scored as a one point deduction or more should be scored the same in Rally, unless otherwise mentioned in the "Rally Rules". There shall be no ½ point penalties in Rally Obedience.

The following deductions shall apply:

1 point deduction for each of the following:

- Tight lead
- Dog interfering with Handler's forward motion
- Poor sits, downs and stands
- Slow or resistant response
- Touching a pylon, post or course distractions
- Touching or hitting a jump without dislodgement
- Out of position
- Out of position when heeling from one station to the next

3 point deduction for each of the following:

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

1 to 10 point deduction:

- Lack of teamwork
- Lack of briskness
- Handler error

5 point deduction:

- Repeat of a station, maximum of two (2) retries allowed per run

10 point deduction for each of the following:

- Incorrectly performed station (including Failure to clear a jump)

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

- Minimum requirements not met
- Dog unmanageable, or uncontrolled barking
- Consistently tight lead
- Dog relieving itself in the ring
- Handler error
- Station not attempted
- Failure of a dog to go over a jump in the proper direction
- Attempting more than two (2) retries
- Performing a station out of sequence
- Where a station is rendered unusable

(TAS) Rationale Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

Clarifies that heeling should be marked between stations, as the deductions do not categorically state this.

Added in 5 point deduction for a retry to keep aligned to retry submission.

Sign #4 Halt – Down N, A, X, M - #4
Whilst heeling, the Handler halts and the dog sits. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to down, followed by the command to heel forward from the down position. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #4

Sign #4 Halt – Down
Whilst heeling, the Handler halts and the dog sits. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to down. The handler must return to an upright stationery position and show a pause in heel position before commanding the dog to heel forward from the down position. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Rationale Sign #4

The rationale for the handler returning to an upright stationery position, is that this proves the dog has a steady down, which is part of the exercise, before heeling forward. Some handlers will lure their dog into the down position, and maintain this lured position throughout the exercise, or the dog will break from position as the handler moves, which is unfair on the handlers that can get their dog into a down position without needing to do this.

Sign #7 *About Turn – Right N, A, X, M - #7
Whilst heeling, the team makes a 180° about turn to the Handler’s right.

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #7

Sign #7 *About Turn – Right
Whilst heeling, the team makes a 180° about turn to the Handler’s right. The team must maintain continuous motion throughout the turn without partially sitting or stopping

(TAS) Rationale Sign #7

This is not a stationery exercise, therefore, dogs should not be partially sitting or stopping whilst executing the turn. This additional wording clarifies this and allows judges to penalise accordingly.

Sign #8 *About “U” Turn N, A, X, M - #8
Whilst heeling, the team makes a 180° turn to the Handler’s left.

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #8

Sign #8 *About “U” Turn
Whilst heeling, the team makes a 180° turn to the Handler’s left. The team must maintain continuous motion throughout the turn without partially sitting or stopping

(TAS) Rationale Sign #8

This is not a stationery exercise, therefore, dogs should not be partially sitting or stopping whilst executing the turn. This additional wording clarifies this and allows judges to penalise accordingly.

Sign #9 *270° Right Turn N, A, X, M - #9
Whilst heeling, the team makes a 270° turn to the Handler's right. 270° turns are performed as a tight circle appropriate to the size of the dog, but not around the exercise sign.

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #9

Sign #9 *270° Right Turn
Whilst heeling, the team makes a 270° turn to the Handler's right. 270° turns are performed as a tight circle appropriate to the size of the dog, but not around the exercise sign. The team must maintain continuous motion throughout the turn without partially sitting or stopping

(TAS) Rationale Sign #9

This is not a stationery exercise, therefore, dogs should not be partially sitting or stopping whilst executing the turn. This additional wording clarifies this and allows judges to penalise accordingly.

Sign #10 *270° Left Turn N, A, X, M - #10
Whilst heeling, the team makes a 270° turn to the Handler's left. 270° turns are performed as a tight circle appropriate to the size of the dog, but not around the exercise sign.

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #10

Sign #10 *270° Left Turn
Whilst heeling, the team makes a 270° turn to the Handler's left. 270° turns are performed as a tight circle appropriate to the size of the dog, but not around the exercise sign. The team must maintain continuous motion throughout the turn without partially sitting or stopping

(TAS) Rationale Sign #10

This is not a stationery exercise, therefore, dogs should not be partially sitting or stopping whilst executing the turn. This additional wording clarifies this and allows judges to penalise accordingly.

Sign #11 360° Right Turn N, A, X, M - #11
Whilst heeling, the team makes a 360° turn to the Handler's right. 360° turns are performed as a tight circle appropriate to the size of the dog but not around the exercise sign.

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #11

Sign #11 *270° Right Turn
Whilst heeling, the team makes a 360° turn to the Handler's right. 360° turns are performed as a tight circle appropriate to the size of the dog but not around the exercise sign. The team must maintain continuous motion throughout the turn without partially sitting or stopping

(TAS) Rationale Sign #11

This is not a stationery exercise, therefore, dogs should not be partially sitting or stopping whilst executing the turn.

Sign #12 360° Left Turn N, A, X, M - #12
Whilst heeling, the team makes a 360° turn to the Handler's left. 360° turns are performed as a tight circle appropriate to the size of the dog but not around the exercise sign.

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #12

Sign #12 *270° Left Turn

Whilst heeling, the team makes a 360° turn to the Handler's left. 360° turns are performed as a tight circle appropriate to the size of the dog but not around the exercise sign. The team must maintain continuous motion throughout the turn without partially sitting or stopping

(TAS) Rationale Sign #12

This is not a stationery exercise, therefore, dogs should not be partially sitting or stopping whilst executing the turn.

Sign #27 Moving – Down N, A, X, M - #27
Whilst moving with the dog in heel position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to down as the Handler comes to a stop next to the dog. Once the dog is completely down, the Handler moves forward, commanding the dog to move forward from down position. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #27

Sign #27 Moving - Down

Whilst moving with the dog in heel position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to down as the Handler comes to a stop next to the dog. Once the dog is completely down, the Handler must return to an upright stationery position and show a pause in heel position before commanding the dog to move forward from down position. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Rationale Sign #27

The rationale for the handler returning to an upright stationery position, is that this proves the dog has a steady down, which is part of the exercise, before heeling forward. Some handlers will lure their dog into the down position, and maintain this lured position throughout the exercise, or the dog will break from position as the handler moves, which is unfair on the handlers that can get their dog into a down position without needing to do this.

Sign #35 Halt - Turn Right One Step - Call to Heel – Halt A, X, M - #35
The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to stay. The Handler then turns to the right, while taking one step in that direction, and halts. The dog is directed to heel position and must move and sit in the new location before moving forward to the next station. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #35

Sign #35 Halt - Turn Right One Step - Call to Heel – Halt
The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to stay. The Handler then turns to the right, while taking one step in that direction, and halts. The dog must maintain the stay until it is directed to the new heel position and must move and sit in the new location before moving forward to the next station. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Rationale Sign #35

By stipulating that dogs must maintain the stay until it is directed to the new heel position, this will ensure dogs are marked accordingly if they anticipate the call up and break from position.

Sign #36 Halt - Stand Dog - Walk Around A, X, M - #36
The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler stands the dog, commands and/or signals the dog to stay as the Handler walks around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The Handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station. In the Advanced Class, the Handler may touch the dog, move forward to stand the dog. The Handler may not physically assist the dog to move into the stand. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #36

Sign #36 Halt - Stand Dog - Walk Around
The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler stands the dog, commands and/or signals the dog to stay as the Handler walks around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The Handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station. ~~In the Advanced Class, the Handler may touch the dog, move forward to stand the dog. The Handler may not physically assist the dog to move into the stand.~~ (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Rationale Sign #36

It is counterproductive to allow the handler to touch the dog or move forward to stand the dog in the Advanced class, when this is not allowed in Excellent or Masters. The way this station is performed should be consistent through all levels, otherwise, a handler can train this a particular way for Advanced and would then be required to potentially re-train this as they progress through the levels.

Further, by allowing handlers to move forward to stand the dog, they could potentially go past the sign, which is then technically IP, and also, the current rule doesn't stipule how far forward a handler can move to get the dog into a stand, therefore it's not fair and consistent to all competitors. Removing this element of wording would eliminate any grey area for a judge to negotiate.

Sign #37 Halt - 90° Pivot Right – Halt A, X, M - #37
The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 90° to the right and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #37

Sign #37 Halt - 90° Pivot Right - Halt

The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 90° to the right and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place and must not take any steps forward (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Rationale Sign #37

Now that judges allow for a handler to step on the spot in order to pivot, they must not be allowed to take any steps forward in the process.

Sign #38 Halt - 90° Pivot Left – Halt A, X, M - #38
The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 90° to the left and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #38

Sign #38 Halt - 90° Pivot Left - Halt

The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 90° to the left and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. The dog must back into position, not turn into the handler. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place and must not take any steps forward (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Rationale Sign #38

The dog should keep motion with the handler during the pivot and back into position as the handler moves. A lot of dogs are turning into the handler (sometimes even facing them), and then the handler is re-positioning them for the sit after the pivot. The handler is completing the pivot, but the dog isn't. Both members of the team should be executing a pivot.

Now that judges allow for a handler to step on the spot in order to pivot, they must not be allowed to take any steps forward in the process.

Sign #40 Halt - Side-step Right – Halt A, X, M - #40
The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler moves one step directly to the right and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position when the Handler halts. The exercise shall be performed just past the exercise sign. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #40

Sign #40 Halt - Side-step Right – Halt
The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler moves one step directly to the right and halts. The dog moves parallel with the Handler and maintains heel position throughout the exercise and sits in heel position when the Handler halts. The exercise shall be performed just past the exercise sign. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Rationale Sign #40

Dogs are not moving parallel with the handler, or at the same time as the handler (i.e.: handler is taking the step sideways and the dog doesn't move, then the dog is called across).

The sign asks for a side step right for the team. With dogs turning into the handler and then realigning for a sit, it is not a side step right completed as a team.

Sign #43 Halt - 180° Pivot Right – Halt A, X, M - #43
The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 180° to the right and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #43

Sign #43 Halt - 180° Pivot Right - Halt
The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 180° to the right and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place and must not take any steps forward (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Rationale Sign #43

Adding “The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place” maintains the same terminology as Sign #37 Halt - 90° Pivot Right – Halt. By doing this, it allows for a handler to step on the spot in order to pivot, however, they must not be allowed to take any steps forward in the process.

Sign #43 Halt - 180° Pivot Right – Halt A, X, M - #43
The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 180° to the right and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #43

Sign #43 Move to Excellent level

(TAS) Rationale Sign #43

Dogs moving up from novice to advanced are required to learn the 90° pivot, a 180° pivot is a much more complex behaviour to teach and would be better suited to the Excellent level. This would create a natural progression moving through the levels

Sign #44 Halt - 180° Pivot Left – Halt A, X, M - #44
The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 180° to the left and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position.
(Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #44

Sign #44 Halt - 180° Pivot Left – Halt

**The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 180° to the left and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. The dog must back into position, not turn into the handler. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place and must not take any steps forward
(Stationary exercise)**

(TAS) Rationale Sign #44

The dog should keep motion with the handler during the pivot and back into position as the handler moves. A lot of dogs are turning into the handler (sometimes even facing them), and then the handler is re-positioning them for the sit after the pivot. The handler is completing the pivot, but the dog isn't. Both members of the team should be executing a pivot.

Adding “The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place” maintains the same terminology as Sign #38 Halt - 90° Pivot Left – Halt. By doing this, it allows for a handler to step on the spot in order to pivot, however, they must not be allowed to take any steps forward in the process.

Sign #44 Halt - 180° Pivot Left – Halt A, X, M - #44
The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 180° to the left and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position.
(Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #44

Sign #44 Move to Excellent level

(TAS) Rationale Sign #44

Dogs moving up from novice to advanced are required to learn the 90° pivot, a 180° pivot is a much more complex behaviour to teach and would be better suited to the Excellent level. This would create a natural progression moving through the levels

Sign #45 Halt - Down – Sit A, X, M - #45
The Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to down, then to sit. The Handler does not physically handle the dog or move forward or backward. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to heel forward from the sitting position. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #45

Sign #45 Halt - Down - Sit
The Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to down. The handler must return to an upright stationery position and show a pause in heel position before commanding and/or signalling the dog to sit. The Handler does not physically handle the dog or move forward or backward. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to heel forward from the sitting position. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Rationale Sign #45

The rationale for the handler returning to an upright stationery position, is that this proves the dog has a steady down, which is part of the exercise, before asking for a sit, instead of the handlers staying bent over and essentially luring the dog back up into a sit. Some handlers will lure their dog into the down position, and maintain this lured position throughout the exercise, or the dog will break from position as the handler moves, which is unfair on the handlers that can get their dog into a down position without needing to do this.

Sign #48 Halt - Stand – Down X, M - #48
The Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the Handler will stand the dog (without physical handling or moving forward), then command and/or signal the dog to down. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to heel forward from the down position. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #48

Sign #48 Halt - Stand - Down
The Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the Handler will stand the dog (without physical handling or moving forward), then command and/or signal the dog to down. The handler must return to an upright stationery position and show a pause in heel position before commanding and/or signalling the dog to heel forward from the down position. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Rationale Sign #48

The rationale for the handler returning to an upright stationery position, is that this proves the dog has a steady down, which is part of the exercise, before heeling forward. Some handlers will lure their dog into the down position, and maintain this lured position throughout the exercise, or the dog will break from position as the handler moves, which is unfair on the handlers that can get their dog into a down position without needing to do this.

Sign #49 Moving Stand - Walk Around Dog X, M - #49
Whilst heeling and without pausing, the Handler will stand the dog and walk around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The Handler must pause in heel position after returning to the dog. Dog must move forward from the standing position. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #49

Sign #49 Moving Stand - Walk Around Dog

Whilst heeling and without pausing or stopping, the Handler will stand the dog and walk around the dog to the left at an even pace, returning to heel position. Once the handler has reached the dog's front left shoulder, the dog should be in a stand and not break position. The Handler must pause in heel position after returning to the dog. Dog must move forward from the standing position. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Rationale Sign #49

The intent of this exercise is for the handler to stand the dog without pausing or coming to a complete stop. Handlers have been known to come to a complete stop when getting the dog to stand without being penalised. Adding the word "stopping" clarifies what the expectation is from the handler and ensures this no longer occurs.

Handlers need to move at an even pace throughout the entire exercise to prevent them slowing up to re-cue the dog if it hasn't stood.

Allowing the handler to reach the dog's front left shoulder before the dog is steady in the stand position allows for dog's who may "paddle" into position to steady themselves without being penalised.

Sign #50 Halt – Leave Dog – Recall X, M - #50
The Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit and stay, then leaves the dog approximately 5 metres, performs an about turn, halts and commands and/or signals the dog to come. The dog shall sit in front of the Handler. The Handler shall return to the right side of the dog by either a step back to the side or around the dog. Handler must pause upon returning to the dog. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #50

Sign #50 Halt – Leave Dog - Recall

The Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit and stay, then leaves the dog approximately 5 metres, performs an about turn, halts and commands and/or signals the dog to come. The dog shall sit in front of the Handler. The Handler shall return to the right side of the dog by either a step back to the side or around the dog. Handler must pause upon returning to the dog. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Rationale Sign #50

The distance should be a set distance, not an approximate, which makes it fairer for every dog and handler. My approximate 5 metres could actually be 5.5 metres, and someone else's approximate could be 4.5 metres. Every dog and handler should be completing the station to the same standard, not to approximates.

Sign #53 Backup 3 Steps M - #53
Whilst heeling, the Handler reverses direction walking backward at least 3 steps, without first stopping, then continues heeling forward. The dog moves backward **parallel** to the Handler and maintains heel position throughout the exercise without sitting or turning its body to face the Handler.

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #53

Sign #53 Backup 3 Steps
Whilst heeling, the Handler reverses direction walking backward at least 3 steps, without first stopping, then continues heeling forward. The dog moves backward parallel to the Handler and must maintains heel position throughout the exercise without sitting or turning its body to face the Handler.

(TAS) Rationale Sign #53

Clarifies that the dog is always in heel position parallel to the handler throughout the exercise, and makes it clearer to the judge on how to score the station if the dog turns in to the Handler

Sign #54 Halt – Leave Dog – Down – Sit - Distance Commands – Return M - #54
The Handler halts and the dog sits. The handler leaves the dog and walks forward at least 3 metres, performs an about turn and halts. The Handler commands and/or signals the dog to down. Once the dog is in down position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit. Once the dog is in sit position, the Handler returns around back of dog into heel position. The Handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station. (Stationary Exercise).

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #54

Sign #54 Halt – Leave Dog – Down – Sit - Distance Commands - Return
The Handler halts and the dog sits. The handler leaves the dog and walks forward at least 3 metres, performs an about turn and halts. The Handler commands and/or signals the dog to down. Once the dog is in down position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit. Once the dog is in sit position, the Handler returns around back of dog into heel position. The Handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station. The maximum total movement forward from the dog will not exceed 1 body length of the dog from start to finish of the exercise (Stationary Exercise).

(TAS) Rationale Sign #54

The distance should be a set distance, not at least 3 metres, which makes it fairer for every dog and handler. My at least 3 metres could actually be 3.5 metres, and someone else's at least 3 metres could be 2.5 metres. Every dog and handler should be completing the station to the same standard, not to approximates

Dogs should not be surging too far forward in an exercise where the primary objective is for change of position from a distance. For the equivalent class in Obedience rules stipulate that half a body length is permissible, however, the intent of RallyO is to be more relaxed than obedience, so one full body length should be all that is permissible. This will help judges to determine if and when the station has been incorrectly performed.

Sign #55 Stand – Leave Dog – Down - Sit - Distance Commands – Return M - #55
Whilst moving with the dog in heel position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to stand as the Handler comes to a stop next to the dog. With the dog in a stand, the Handler leaves the dog and walks forward 3 metres, performs an about turn and halts. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to down. Once the dog is in down position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit. Once dog is in sit position, the Handler returns around the back of dog into heel position. Handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #55

Sign #55 Stand – Leave Dog – Down - Sit - Distance Commands – Return
Whilst moving with the dog in heel position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to stand as the Handler comes to a stop next to the dog. With the dog in a stand, the Handler leaves the dog and walks forward 3 metres, performs an about turn and halts. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to down. The dog must go directly from the stand position to the down position without sitting or moving forward. Once the dog is in down position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit. Once dog is in sit position, the Handler returns around the back of dog into heel position. Handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station. The maximum total movement forward from the dog will not exceed 1 body length of the dog from start to finish of the exercise (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Rationale Sign #55

The station asks for a down from a standing position, therefore, dogs should not be sitting first, and then going into the down (otherwise they are effectively doing a sit-down-sit). Dogs should not be moving forward from the stand position before going into the down either, as they are essentially breaking from position. The exercise should be done in one fluent movement.

Dogs should not be surging too far forward in an exercise where the primary objective is for change of position from a distance. For the equivalent class in Obedience rules stipulate that half a body length is permissible, however, the intent of RallyO is to be more relaxed than obedience, so one full body length should be all that is permissible. This will help judges to determine if and when the station has been incorrectly performed.

Sign #56 Moving Stand – Leave Dog - Distance Down M - #56
Whilst heeling and without pausing, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to stand and leaves the dog to a distance at least 3 metres, turns, halts, commands and/or signals the dog to drop, then returns around the dog and, without pausing, continues on.(Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #56

Sign #56 Moving Stand – Leave Dog - Distance Down
Whilst heeling and without pausing, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to stand and leaves the dog to a distance at least of 3 metres, performs an about turn and halts. The handler then commands and/or signals the dog to drop, then returns around the dog and, without pausing, continues on with the dog in heel position. The dog must go directly from the stand position to the down position without sitting or moving forward. The maximum total movement forward from the dog will not exceed 1 body length of the dog from start to finish of the exercise (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Rationale Sign #56

The distance should be a set distance, not at least 3 metres, which makes it fairer for every dog and handler. My at least 3 metres could actually be 3.5 metres, and someone else's at least 3 metres could be 2.5 metres. Every dog and handler should be completing the station to the same standard, not to approximates

Clarifies that the dog must maintain heel position when moving off after the handler has returned.

The station asks for a down from a standing position, therefore, dogs should not be sitting first, and then going into the down (otherwise they are effectively doing a sit-down). Dogs should not be moving forward from the stand position before going into the down either, as they are essentially breaking from position. The exercise should be done in one fluent movement.

Dogs should not be surging too far forward in an exercise where the primary objective is for change of position from a distance. For the equivalent class in Obedience rules stipulate that half a body length is permissible, however, the intent of RallyO is to be more relaxed than obedience, so one full body length should be all that is permissible. This will help judges to determine if and when the station has been incorrectly performed.

Sign #57 Moving Down - Walk Around Dog M - #57
Whilst heeling and without pausing, the Handler will down the dog and walk around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The Handler must pause in heel position after returning to the dog. The dog must move forward from the down position with the Handler at completion. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #57

Sign #57 Moving Down - Walk Around Dog
Whilst heeling and without pausing or stopping, the Handler will down the dog and walk around the dog to the left at an even pace, returning to heel position. Once the handler has reached the dog's front left shoulder, the dog should be in a down and not break position. The Handler must pause in heel position after returning to the dog. The dog must move forward from the down position with the Handler at completion. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Rationale Sign #57

The intent of this exercise is for the handler to down the dog without pausing or coming to a complete stop. Handlers have been known to come to a complete stop when getting the dog to down without being penalised. Adding the word "stopping" clarifies what the expectation is from the handler and ensures this no longer occurs

Handlers need to move at an even pace throughout the entire exercise to prevent them slowing up to re-cue the dog if it hasn't dropped.

Allowing the handler to reach the dog's front left shoulder before the dog is in the down position allows for dog's who may go down slowly (for example: due to physical restrictions) a chance to get into position without being penalised.

Sign #58 Moving Sit – Walk Around Dog M - #58
Whilst heeling and without pausing, the Handler will sit the dog and walk around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The Handler must pause in heel position after returning to the dog. The dog must move forward from the sit position with the Handler at completion. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #58

Sign #58 Moving Sit – Walk Around Dog
Whilst heeling and without pausing or stopping, the Handler will sit the dog and walk around the dog to the left at an even pace, returning to heel position. Once the handler has reached the dog's front left shoulder, the dog should be in a sit and not break position. The Handler must pause in heel position after returning to the dog. The dog must move forward from the sit position with the Handler at completion. (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Rationale Sign #58

The intent of this exercise is for the handler to sit the dog without pausing or coming to a complete stop. Handlers have been known to come to a complete stop when getting the dog to sit without being penalised. Adding the word "stopping" clarifies what the expectation is from the handler and ensures this no longer occurs.

Handlers need to move at an even pace throughout the entire exercise to prevent them slowing up to re-cue the dog if it hasn't sat.

Allowing the handler to reach the dog's front left shoulder before the dog is in a sit allows for dog's who may be slow responding (for example: due to physical restrictions), to get into position without being penalised.

Sign #59 Halt – Leave Dog - Call To Heel M - #59
The Handler halts and the dog sits. The Handler leaves the dog and walks forward at least 3 metres and without pausing, calls the dog to heel. The dog is expected to catch up into heel position as the Handler moves forward and before the Handler reaches the next station. The dog must not anticipate the recall and must not forge significantly ahead of the Handler when coming into heel position.(Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Proposed changes Sign #59

Sign #59 Halt – Leave Dog - Call To Heel

The Handler halts and the dog sits. The Handler leaves the dog and walks forward at least 3 metres and without pausing, calls the dog to heel. The dog is expected to catch up into heel position as the Handler moves forward and before the Handler reaches the next station. The dog must not anticipate the recall and must not forge significantly ahead of the Handler when coming into heel position. The handler must not put their hand out to physically stop the dog from running past after the call up (Stationary exercise)

(TAS) Rationale Sign #59

The intent of the exercise is for the dog to know where heel position is from a 3 metre call up, without the handler using their hand as a stop sign continuously to prevent the dog from surging forward.
