

ANKC Rally Obedience Rules Review for 2021

Submission May, 2019

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Titles

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 (2) different Judges in Novice class to earn a title.

Change

RN - signifying Rally Novice- Three (3) qualifying scores of **80** points or more must be earned under at least two (2) different Judges in Novice class to earn a title.

Note: Qualifying scores of 75 in Rally Novice achieved prior to 1st January, 2021 shall count toward the requirement for the Rally Novice title.

Rationale

There should be an expectation of a minimum standard of work to gain a qualification at Novice level. Trends have been noted with handlers and dogs entering the Novice class before they are ready or presenting with a sub-standard quality of work.

This class is performed on lead and it really shouldn't be that difficult to attain a minimum score of 80 with a dog that does reasonable heeling and changes of position.

A minimum score of 80 provides continuity with the Advanced and Excellent classes requirements for a pass and, hopefully, contributes to a better prepared team wanting to move on to the Rally Advanced level.

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.

Change

RE – 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.

After the first set of five (5) qualifying scores, each succeeding five (5) qualifying scores shall qualify for a multiplier suffix e.g. 10 qualifying scores for RE may be awarded RE2, 15 qualifying scores for RE may be awarded RE3 etc.

Once a dog has competed in the Rally Masters class, Multiplier suffixes in RE may no longer be earned.

Rationale

With the original rules, there were no further classes offered for titling in Rally-O and an RAE offered Handlers and dogs an opportunity to keep trialling in this discipline. But, since a Master Class and a Rally-O Champion title were added, there doesn't seem a need to keep an RAE.

But there appears to be a large contingent of Handlers who do not feel ready to step up to the Master Class once they've completed their Rally Excellent title. Allowing multiple accrual of RE suffixes would allow these competitors to keep trialling at RE level until such time they feel ready to progress to the Rally Master class..

R.A.E. – signifying Rally Advanced Excellent - To qualify for the title of RAE a dog and Handler team must receive a minimum of five (5) qualifying scores, in both the Rally Advanced B & Rally Excellent B Classes on the same day, of 80 points or more out of a possible perfect score of 100, under at least two different Judges..

Change

DELETE the R.A.E. title from Rally Obedience and dispense with the 'B' class. Restructure the title system and offer multiple accrual opportunities for RE AND RM. RE for those handlers who don't feel they are quite ready to enter the Rally Master class but would like to keep trialling in a trial setting. RM for those who have completed their initial RM title and/or Rally O champion title and would like to keep trialling. This also provides continuity with other performance disciplines as teams can continue competing in Obedience Open class and also certain Agility classes.

Rationale

The rationale for the 2016 rules review was to allow teams who had started toward an RAE title prior to the rule change effective date, to finish that RAE title, not to start anew or continue to accrue RAEs.

With the original rules, there were no further classes offered for titling in Rally-O and an RAE offered Handlers and dogs an opportunity to keep trialling in this discipline. But, since a Master Class and a Rally-O Champion title were added, there really is no need to keep this class title.

For those who wish to keep trialling after achieving RO Ch, a submission for multiplier suffixes for RMs is made. This allows competitors who wish to keep going with Rally-O to do so.

For those who do not feel ready to step up to the Master Class, a submission for multiplier suffixes for RE has been made. This allows these competitors to keep trialling at RE level until such time they feel ready to progress.

There is precedent for allowing dogs to continue trialling in the Open Obedience class.

The requirement of a 'B' class can add more time to the running of a trial for many clubs, including extra administration and may add to the expense for clubs who require additional judges to meet the extra number of entrants required to run the Advanced and Excellent B classes as well as providing sashes/prizes for places.

For those who argue that it is not 'fair' for handlers to compete against an already titled team, please examine why you are trialling. Is it only for sashes or is it to strive for doing the best with your dog and have fun doing it? Aspire to put in the time and training it takes to be at the top of each class on trial day.

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.

Change - add

After the first set of seven (7) qualifying scores of minimum 85 points, each succeeding seven (7) qualifying scores shall qualify for a multiplier suffix e.g. 14 qualifying scores for RM may be awarded RM2, 21 qualifying scores for RM may be awarded RM3 etc.

Multiplier suffixes in RM may be continue to be earned after a dog has achieved its RO Champion title.

Rationale

There is currently no provision for Rally Obedience champions to continue to trial in Rally-O once completed those requirements. Many teams would enjoy continuing Rally-O for the fun and to also complement their training in traditional Obedience.

There is precedent for achieving multiplier suffixes in Agility Masters and Open classes.

RO. CH - signifying Rally Obedience Champion - Upon having been granted the Rally Master Title, in order to receive the RO.CH Title, a dog must qualify a further ten (10) times with qualifying scores of 90 or more points in the Rally Master Class under at least (3) different Judges.

Change

RO. CH - signifying Rally Obedience Champion - Upon having been granted the Rally Master Title, in order to receive the RO.CH Title, a dog must qualify a further ten (10) times with qualifying scores of **93** or more points in the Rally Master Class under at least four (4) different Judges.

Rationale

A Champion title in any discipline should indicate performance work of the absolute highest standard and in Rally Obedience, this should preclude stations/exercises performed incorrectly or having to retry exercises. Combined with a rule change for a five (5) point deduction for a Retry at Master level, this ensures only teams offering the highest standard of work earn a Champion title.

Only finely tuned teams who can demonstrate over and over a consistently high quality of team work should be deserving of Champion titles. This high standard of work should be evident to any judge on the day and having at least four different judges across all qualification certificates better demonstrates evidence of such consistency.

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CLASSES

Rally Advanced B

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

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

Rally Excellent B

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

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

Change

DELETE Rally Advanced B and Rally Excellent B classes. Delete all reference to B classes in these rules.

Rationale

If restructuring the Title stream in Rally Obedience and deleting the R.A.E. Title, then Advanced and Excellent B classes are no longer required. Handlers may continue to achieve multiplier suffixes at Rally Excellent level until they enter their first Master Class, if that submission is accepted.

Even if an RAE title should remain, there should be no need to have separate A and B divisions in the Advanced and Excellent classes.

And, if the submission for multiplier suffixes for the Master Class is accepted, then once a dog has competed in a Master class, it should no longer be eligible to enter either RAE or RE classes.

For those who argue that it is not 'fair' for handlers to compete against an already titled team, please examine why you are trialling. Is it only for sashes or is it to strive for doing the best with your dog and have fun doing it? Aspire to put in the time and training it takes to be at the top of each class on trial day.

Rally Excellent

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

Change

This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Advanced (RA) Title, but are not eligible for the Rally Excellent (RE) Title or have completed the RE title but have not yet competed in a Rally Master class.

Rationale

If accepting submissions for deleting B classes, RAE title and accepting multiplier suffixes for RE title, then this clarifies eligibility for entering the RE class.

Page 8**Exhibitors and Handlers****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. 9

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.

Change - add

Handlers in Master class will incur a five (5) point deduction for a Retry.

Rationale

Competitors at Master level should be expected to be performing at the highest standard therefore, should incur a greater penalty if a Retry is required, especially when working towards a Rally Obedience Champion title.

Note

Errors that would result in a non-qualifying score for a specific station such as a jump and not allowed a Retry should be clearly defined in the rules. Currently these are still not clearly identified in exercise descriptions.

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Non-Qualifying Scores:

If a team receives a non-qualifying score on a course, judging will cease immediately and no retries will be allowed.

Change - add

The Judge will advise the Handler at the point at which they have non-qualified and will not be allowed retries although may finish the course, if they so wish and depending on time.

In the interest of time, a Judge who has non-qualified a Handler may excuse the team immediately from the course at the point at which they have non-qualified.

A dog that has been non-qualified for eliminating in the ring shall immediately be excused from the ring

Rationale

Much of the time, Handlers do not realise they have non-qualified and would not know they are no longer eligible to ask for a retry. It is disconcerting to look up and see the Judge standing with arms folded, obviously not judging. It also wastes valuable time if a dog is being unmanageable, or teamwork is obviously not happening, especially with a large class/trial or other necessities such as travel commitments. The Judge should have the discretion to excuse the non-qualified team from the course so that the trial may proceed.

It has previously not been clear that a dog that eliminates in the ring should be excused immediately from the ring. Some Judges have allowed these dogs to continue the course run. This risks more elimination and is not fair to other competitors.

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3 point deduction for each of the following:

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

Change

- Repeat of a station, maximum of two (2) retries allowed per run in Novice, Advanced and Excellent Classes.

Change - add

5 point deduction for each of the following:

- Repeat of a station in Master Class.

Rationale

As submitted earlier, Master Class should reflect the highest standard of work in Rally-O and having to retry a station should be penalised accordingly.

Note: all qualifying certificates earned toward a Rally Master title or a Rally-O Champion title prior to 1st January 2021 shall count toward these titles.

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Appendix A – Rally Obedience Signs & Explanations

General Regulations:

- The Advanced Class is performed off lead, using exercises 1 - 46. It consists of 12-17 exercises (not including Start and Finish), with a minimum of three (3) to a maximum of seven (7) stationary exercises. The course must contain one jump plus a minimum of 4 advanced exercises.

Change

- The Advanced Class is performed off lead, using exercises 1 - xx. It consists of 12-17 exercises (not including Start and Finish), with a minimum of three (3) to a maximum of six (6) stationary exercises. The course must contain one jump plus a minimum of 4 advanced exercises.

Rationale

If submission for moving the four pivot exercises to Excellent are accepted, this removes 4 stationary exercises from Advanced class therefore a reduction of one maximum stationary exercise requirement provides more flexibility for the Judge in course design.

- The Excellent Class is performed off lead using exercises 1 - xx. It consists of 15-20 stations (not including Start and Finish) with a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 10 stationary exercises. The course must have two jumps plus a minimum of 6 advanced exercises and 4 excellent exercises.

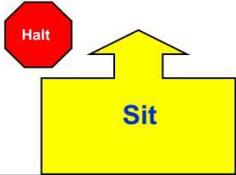
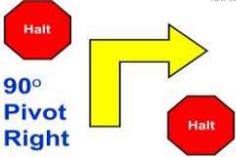
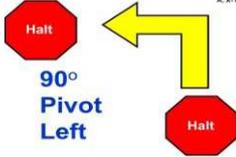
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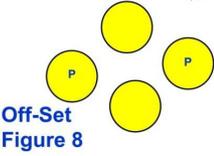
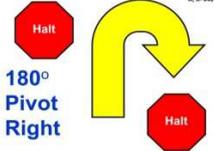
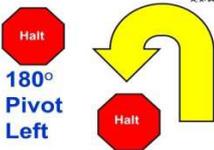
- The Excellent Class is performed off lead using exercises 1 - xx. It consists of 15-20 stations (not including Start and Finish) with a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 10 stationary exercises. The course must have two jumps plus a minimum of 3 advanced exercises and 4 excellent exercises.

Rationale

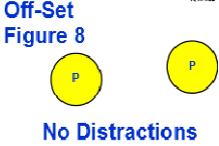
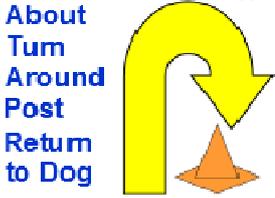
If submission for moving the four pivot exercises to Excellent are accepted, this removes 4 exercises to select from Advanced class therefore a reduction of the required number of Advanced exercises required provides more flexibility for the Judge in course design.

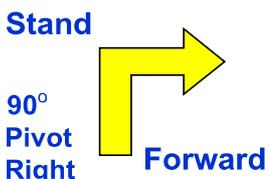
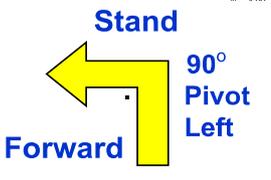
Exercises:

<p>3. Halt - Sit - Whilst heeling, the Handler halts and the dog sits in heel position. The team then moves forward, with the dog in heel position. (Stationary exercise)</p>	
<p>Remove the redundant Sit from the sign. <i>Rationale: The halt icon signifies an automatic sit. New handlers are still being confused with the redundancy of this sign.</i></p>	
<p>46. *Send Over Jump - Handler Passes By - Whilst moving with the dog in heel position, the Handler directs the dog to take the jump as the Handler passes by the jump without any pause, hesitation or stopping. The Handler may increase speed or run while passing by the jump. When the dog has completed the jump in the proper direction, it is called to heel position and the team continues to the next exercise. Change - add A Retry shall not be permitted on this exercise If the bar is knocked from a bar jump or the dog walks on a broad jump.</p>	
<p><i>Rationale: The rules under the section Retry indicate that specific exercises may expressly prohibit a Retry however they do not. This clarification would provide consistency.</i></p>	
<p>37. Halt - 90° Pivot Right - Halt - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 90° to the right & halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place. (Stationary exercise)</p>	
<p>Move this exercise into the Excellent Class <i>Rationale: There is an inequity in the number of different exercises introduced at Advanced level compared to Excellent level (14 / 5). Learning footwork for pivots could be considered a higher level challenge for handlers particularly considering Advanced is challenging enough as it is the first class performed off-lead.</i></p>	<p><i>Moving this exercise to Excellent would help balance the number of exercises introduced in each class and enhance the differentiation between classes.</i></p>
<p>38. Halt - 90° Pivot Left - Halt - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 90° to the left and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place. (Stationary exercise)</p>	
<p>Move this exercise into the Excellent Class <i>Rationale: There is an inequity of the number of different exercises introduced in Advanced level compared to Excellent level (14 / 5). Learning footwork for pivots and training a dog to maintain heel position whilst moving or turning backwards could be considered a higher level challenge for handlers.</i></p>	<p><i>Moving this exercise to Excellent would help balance the number of exercises introduced in each class and enhance the differentiation between classes.</i></p>

<p>39. Offset Figure 8 - This exercise requires two pylons or posts placed about 2.45 – 3.00 metres apart, around which the team will perform a complete Figure 8, crossing the centre line three times. Two distractions will be arranged to the sides of the Figure 8 about 1.55 – 1.85 metres apart. Entry may be between the pylons or posts and the distraction on either side. The distractions will consist of two securely covered containers with tempting dog treats; however, dog toys may replace one or both containers, or may be placed next to the containers. The exercise sign may be placed on or near the cone where entry is made into the Offset Figure 8.</p> <p>Change - add A Retry shall not be permitted on this exercise if the dog should dislodge a distraction .</p>	
<p>Move this exercise into the Excellent Class</p>	
<p><i>Rationale: Stepping up from Novice to Advanced class, going from on lead to off lead, and introduction of other new exercises make Advanced class challenging enough without the added distraction exercise. In traditional obedience, food refusal does not come in until UD class. Moving this exercise up one class would bring some continuity across the two obedience disciplines.</i></p>	<p><i>Rationale: The rules under the section Retry indicate that specific exercises may expressly prohibit a Retry however they do not. This clarification would provide consistency</i></p>
<p>43. Halt - 180° Pivot Right - Halt - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 180° to the right and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. (Stationary exercise)</p>	
<p>Move this exercise into the Excellent Class</p>	
<p><i>Rationale: Learning footwork for pivots could be considered a higher level challenge for handlers particularly considering Advanced is challenging enough as it is the first class performed off-lead.</i></p>	<p><i>Moving this exercise to Excellent would help balance the number of exercises introduced in each class and enhance the differentiation between classes.</i></p>
<p>44. Halt - 180° Pivot Left - Halt - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 180° to the left and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. (Stationary exercise)</p>	
<p>Move this exercise into the Excellent Class</p>	
<p><i>Rationale: Learning footwork for pivots and training a dog to maintain heel position whilst moving or turning backwards could be considered a higher level challenge for handlers.</i></p>	<p><i>Moving this exercise to Excellent would help balance the number of exercises introduced in each class and enhance the differentiation between classes.</i></p>

Suggestions for new exercises

<p>ADVANCED Offset Figure 8 – No Distractions – This exercise requires two pylons or posts placed about 2.45 – 3.00 metres apart, around which the team will perform a complete Figure 8, crossing the centre line three times.</p>	 <p>Off-Set Figure 8 No Distractions</p>
<p><i>Rationale: Replacing the original off-set Figure 8 exercise with distraction in the Advanced class as this is the first class off-lead and it is a great expectation for many dogs to ignore toys and/or food distractions at this level. May also be used as a change of direction or line in a course.</i></p>	
<p>ADVANCED Leave Dog - About Turn – Return to Dog .Handler halts and dog sits. Handler leaves dog and walks forward 5 meters. Handler performs an About Turn then, facing the dog and without pausing, walks back toward dog. The handler will return around the back of the dog to heel position. Handler must pause and then command/cue the dog to move forward from the Sit position. The dog must not move from the Sit position and must not change position. (Stationary exercise)</p>	 <p>About Turn Around Post Return to Dog</p>
<p><i>Rationale: Leaving the dog in a sit-stay or a down-stay is presented at the lowest level class in traditional obedience. Advanced would be the appropriate class to introduce this demonstration of ability of a dog to perform a very short stay in the position in which it was placed and to introduce the dog to a stay exercise in preparation for more complex stay exercises in higher classes.</i></p>	<p><i>This has the added advantage to be added into the Advanced class where it is proposed the pivot exercises are moved to the Excellent Class.</i></p> <p><i>The example sign is for reference only and may be redesigned as appropriate for the actual wording of the exercise. It is anticipated there would be a marker on the ground as in other current leave your dog type exercises.</i></p>
<p>EXCELLENT Leave Dog - About Turn – Recall Dog – Finish Right Handler halts and dog sits. Handler leaves dog and walks forward 5 meters and does an about turn to face dog. Handler recalls dog. Dog comes briskly to sit in front of handler. The dog must return to heel position by moving around the right side of the Handler. Dog must sit in heel position before moving forward with the Handler. The dog must not anticipate the recall. (Stationary exercise)</p>	 <p>About Turn Call Dog Finish Right Halt</p>
<p>EXCELLENT Leave Dog - About Turn – Recall Dog – Finish Left Handler halts and dog sits. Handler leaves dog and walks forward 5 meters and does an about turn to face dog. Handler recalls dog. Dog comes briskly to sit in front of handler. The dog must return to heel position by moving around the left side of the Handler. Dog must sit in heel position before moving forward with the Handler. The dog must not anticipate the recall. (Stationary exercise)</p>	 <p>About Turn Call Dog Finish Left Halt</p>

<p>Rationale: Leaving the dog in a stay for a Recall is presented at the lowest level class in traditional obedience. Excellent is the appropriate class to introduce this demonstration of ability of a dog to perform a stay and recall from short distance. These exercises have an added benefit of adding a change of direction for flexibility in design of a course.</p>	
<p>EXCELLENT Double Left About Turn – Whilst moving with the dog in heel position, the Handler makes an about turn to the left, while at the same time, the dog must move around the Handler to the right and into heel position. The team heels 3 meters and then repeats the Left About Turn then moves forward to the next station. The dog does not sit at any time in this exercise</p>	 <p>The diagram shows two yellow arrows. The first arrow starts pointing right, turns left 90 degrees, then right 90 degrees, then left 90 degrees, and finally right 90 degrees to end pointing right. The second arrow starts pointing right, turns left 90 degrees, then right 90 degrees, then left 90 degrees, and finally right 90 degrees to end pointing right. To the right of the arrows, the text 'Double Left About Turn' is written in blue.</p>
<p>Rationale: The Left About Turn during heeling is present at the lowest level class in traditional obedience and in Rally-O. The double Left About Turn aspect of this exercise introduces a new and slightly more challenging feature. It also provides an extra non-stationary exercise to provide more flexibility in course design.</p>	
<p>MASTER Moving Stand – Pivot Right – Forward –Handler commands and/or signals dog to Stand as Handler comes to a halt. With the dog standing, the Handler pivots 90° to the right and the dog moves with the Handler. The dog does not sit. There is a slight pause before the team heels forward. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place. (Stationary exercise)</p>	 <p>The diagram shows a yellow arrow starting pointing right, turning left 90 degrees to point up, then right 90 degrees to point right. To the left of the arrow, the text 'Stand', '90° Pivot Right', and 'Forward' is written in blue.</p>
<p>MASTER Moving Stand – Pivot Left – Forward –Handler commands and/or signals dog to Stand as Handler comes to a halt. With the dog standing, the Handler pivots 90° to the left and the dog moves with the Handler. The dog does not sit. There is a slight pause before the team heels forward. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place. (Stationary exercise)</p>	 <p>The diagram shows a yellow arrow starting pointing right, turning left 90 degrees to point up, then left 90 degrees to point left. To the right of the arrow, the text 'Stand', '90° Pivot Left', and 'Forward' is written in blue.</p>
<p>Rationale: These two exercises would increase the variety of exercises in Rally Obedience particularly the Master Class. The complexity of rear-end awareness suits the highest level class, Master Class, and would help balance the number of exercises in each class.</p>	