



SCHEDULE 05T – REGULATIONS FOR RALLY DOG

(Effective 01.10.2026)

RALLY DOG IN SUMMARY

Rally Dog (hereinafter referred to as “Rally”) is a branch of Dogsport based on Obedience. Instead of requiring the Judge to provide a heel pattern (for example), Rally competitors proceed around a course with designated stations, the dog in heel position. At each station, an exercise is performed, and the dog and handler are marked on their ability to execute the commands at the stations correctly, as well as on the connection between dog and handler between and at the stations.

A key object of Rally is for the dog and handler to have fun while working as a team.

Rally can be an Individual or Team sport. Currently, the focus in South Africa is on Individual participation.

1. LICENSING AND SHOW REGULATIONS

The Regulations and other matters governing Championship Shows are set out in Schedule 3 of the KUSA Constitution. These Regulations apply to Rally insofar as they are relevant and not in conflict with the terms of this Schedule 05T.

2. SCOPE OF LICENCE

- 2.1. A Club that is qualified to hold a Championship Show may hold a Championship and/or a Non-championship Show under appropriate Show licences.
- 2.2. A Club that is not qualified to hold a Championship Show may hold a Non-championship Show under a relevant show licence.

3. RALLY CERTIFICATES

- 3.1. When a dog reaches the Master Class and achieves a qualification at a Championship Show, it will be awarded with a Qualifying Certificate. When three (3) Qualifying Certificates have been earned under three (3) different Judges, the dog will qualify for Champion status and be issued with a KUSA certificate to confirm such status.
- 3.2. Once a dog is a Rally Dog Champion, a dog awarded fifteen (15) Qualifying Certificates at Championship Shows, evenly issued by a minimum of three (3) different Judges in the Master Class, will qualify for Grand Champion status and be issued with a KUSA certificate to confirm such status.
- 3.3. The required percentage to qualify in the Fun, Novice, Advanced and Excellent classes is 90% (ninety percent), whereas the percentage to qualify in the Master Class is 95% (ninety-five percent).

4. REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY OF DOGS FOR COMPETITION

- 4.1. A dog must be a minimum of six (6) months of age to enter the Fun Class.
- 4.2. A dog that is 12 (twelve) months and older may compete in the Novice to Grand Master Classes and is eligible to become a Champion or Grand Champion.
- 4.3. The dog shall be registered with the Kennel Union of Southern Africa (KUSA) in the Breed Register, Canine Dogsport Record, or Appendix Register.
- 4.4. Any dog that satisfies the Regulations of the Schedule may compete in Rally, provided it had not been disqualified or suspended from competition by KUSA.
- 4.5. A dog may compete in Rally Dog, provided it has been issued with a Rally Dog Record Card. Such Record Card may be obtained from a Provincial Council Rally Dog Sub-committee. The issuing authority will advise the Handler what information and documentation is required for the issuing of the Rally Dog Record Card. Should there not be a Rally Dog Sub-committee in a province, Rally Dog Record Cards may be applied for directly to the Provincial Council, or to the KUSA Office.
- 4.6. Should handlers who have not acquired a Rally Dog Record Card wish to enter the Fun Class, they may do so "Not For Competition" ("NFC"). A dog entered NFC is not eligible for a placing, or to receive a qualification. Entering a dog NFC may not occur more than three (3) times. A Provincial Council Rally Dog Sub-Committee is entitled to request a handler to refrain from entering further competitions if no attempt is made to obtain a Rally Dog Record Card.
- 4.7. A dog, having become eligible to compete in a class, may continue to compete in that class until it is suspended or disqualified from competition, or until it has qualified out of that class.
- 4.8. A dog entered in any Show may not be entered in more than one Rally class at the same Show.
- 4.9. It is permissible for a dog to take part in a higher class than the class entered in advance of a Show, provided that the dog has qualified out of the lower class prior to the Show. The handler is to present the dog's Rally Dog Record Card to the Judge prior to the commencement of the draw.
- 4.10. Dogs that are ill or injured, or visibly lame, are not permitted to compete in Rally events. A dog that has an injury which affects its mobility, must present a letter from a registered vet or physiotherapist, issued within six (6) months prior to the Show, stating their diagnosis and confirming that the dog is not in pain and that, despite the injury, is fit to compete in Rally. Notwithstanding the presentation of the said letter, the Judge retains the discretionary powers to bar the dog from competition if, in the Judge's opinion, the dog is unfit to compete.
- 4.11. Bitches in season are not permitted to enter Rally classes.
- 4.12. Once a dog has qualified in a higher Class, they may not compete again in the lower Class. The dog may, however, enter NFC in a lower Class.
- 4.13. Should a dog qualify out of a Class on a bumper weekend of Shows, the dog may compete in the higher Class that is held later that day, or subsequent days. It is the responsibility of the Handler to inform the Show Secretary as well as the Judge of the

Show they will enter under in the higher Class

5. DEFINITION OF CLASSES

5.1. Fun Class (offered at Non-championship Shows only)

- 5.1.1. All dogs from six (6) months of age may participate in the Fun Class, which will be offered at Non-championship Shows only.
- 5.1.2. The Fun Class will commence after the other Rally classes.
- 5.1.3. Dogs will work on-leash and the following training aids are permitted on the course: Food, toy, gentle commands, words of praise and encouragement. Handlers will, however, not be permitted to drop food on the course, or throw a ball on the course. Toy rewards are to be controlled, for example, the dog is not permitted to run after a ball when on the course.
- 5.1.4. Dogs that have qualified (achieved 90% or higher) ten (10) times in the Fun Class will be required to move up to the Novice Class. A dog's Rally Dog Record Card will be completed each time it achieves 90% or higher.
- 5.1.5. The provision of incentives for the Fun Class, such as rosettes and/or prizes, shall be at the sole discretion of the show-holding Club.

5.2. Novice Class (offered at Championship and Non-championship Shows)

- 5.2.1. Novice is the first competitive class in Rally.
- 5.2.2. Food, treats and/or toys are no longer permitted in the ring, however encouragement and words of praise are permitted.
- 5.2.3. Dogs may remain on-leash, at the discretion of the handler. There will be no extra points gained if a dog is worked off-leash.
- 5.2.4. For a dog to qualify to the Advanced Class, it needs to achieve 90% or higher a minimum of three (3) times. On achieving three (3) qualifications the Handler may elect to move up to the next Class. A compulsory move to a higher Class requires five (5) qualifications with two (2) of the qualifications being 95% or higher. Two (2) of the qualifications of 95% or higher are to be completed in the shaded area on the dog's Record Card.

5.3. Advanced Class – (offered at Championship and Non-championship Shows)

- 5.3.1. All dogs that have qualified a minimum of three (3) times or a maximum of five (5) times in the Novice Class will compete in the Advanced Class, unless they have qualified in a higher grade.
- 5.3.2. Dogs may remain on-leash, at the discretion of the handler.
- 5.3.3. Food, treats and/or toys are not permitted in the ring, but encouragement and limited words of praise are permitted.
- 5.3.4. For a dog to qualify to the Excellent Class, it needs to achieve 90% or higher a minimum of three (3) times. On achieving three (3) qualifications the Handler may elect to move up to the next Class. A compulsory move to a higher Class requires five (5) qualifications with two (2) of the qualifications being 95% or

higher. Two (2) of the qualifications of 95% or higher are to be completed in the shaded area on the dog's Record Card.

5.4. Excellent Class (offered at Championship and Non-Championship Shows)

- 5.4.1. All dogs that have qualified a minimum of three (3) times and a maximum of five (5) times in the Advanced Class will compete in the Excellent Class, unless they have qualified in a higher grade.
- 5.4.2. In the Excellent Class, dogs are worked off-leash in the ring. The leash may either be removed outside the ring, or at the Start Marker while the dog is in the "Sit" position. The handler may keep the leash on his/her person when on the course, or it may be placed outside the ring.
- 5.4.3. Food, treats and/or toys are not permitted in the ring, but encouragement and limited words of praise are permitted.
- 5.4.4. For a dog to qualify to the Master Class, it needs to achieve 90% or higher a minimum of three (3) times. On achieving three (3) qualifications the Handler may elect to move up to the next Class. A compulsory move to a higher Class requires five (5) qualifications with two (2) of the qualifications being 95% or higher. Two (2) of the qualifications of 95% or higher are to be completed in the shaded area on the dog's Record Card.

5.5. Master Class (offered at Championship and Non-championship Shows)

- 5.5.1. All dogs that have qualified three (3) times in the Excellent Class may compete in the Master Class, unless they have qualified in a higher grade.
- 5.5.2. In the Master Class, dogs are worked off-leash in the ring. The leash may either be removed outside the ring or at the Start Marker while the dog is in the "Sit" position. The handler may keep the leash on his/her person when on the course, or it may be placed outside the ring.
- 5.5.3. Food, treats and/or toys are not permitted in the ring, but encouragement and minimum words of praise are permitted.
- 5.5.4. A dog that has achieved the qualification percentage of 95% (ninety-five percent) or higher at three (3) Championship Shows, under three (3) different Judges, is eligible for Championship status. See Item 3.1.
- 5.5.5. After achieving fifteen (15) Qualifying Certificates at Championship Shows, evenly issued by a minimum of three (3) different Judges, the dog will qualify for Grand Champion status and be issued with a KUSA certificate to confirm such status.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION

6.1. Course Layout:

- 6.1.1. The Course Layout will be made visible to competitors approximately one hour before the start of the round.

6.2. Order of Competition:

- 6.2.1. The Order of Competition shall be determined by a Judge's draw. However, should the course contain a Jump exercise, the Order of Competition will be dependent on the jump height. Amendments to the draw shall be at the Judge's discretion.

6.3. Course Orientation:

- 6.3.1. One Course Orientation per Class will take place. The competitors entered in a specific Class will have ten (10) minutes under the supervision of the Judge to familiarise themselves with the Course Layout. Dogs are not permitted on the course during the Course Orientation.
- 6.3.2. The competitors may ask questions within the time allowed. However, the Judge will only advise the Fun and Novice Class Handlers on how to interpret a sign.

6.4. Test Cards:

- 6.4.1. Test Cards must be clearly marked on an A4 sign, secured to the ground not higher than 0,3m. The Test Cards must be arranged in such a way that they pose no danger to the dogs or Handlers.
- 6.4.1.1. The distance between each Test Card must be measured from the approximate area of completion of the exercise and there may be no less than three (3) metres and no more than six (6) metres to the next Test Card, unless otherwise stipulated.
- 6.4.2. Test Cards/Cones must be placed at least two (2) metres from the boundary of the ring.
- 6.4.3. A reasonable number of right-hand Test Cards need to be included in Excellent and Master Classes. The number of right-hand Test Cards must support the level being competed in.
- 6.4.4. The Test Cards are defined as per the table below.
- 6.4.5. The Exercises have been divided into different levels, depending on their level of difficulty.

	Level 1 Cards 100-199	Level 2 Cards 200-299	Level 3 Card 300-399	Level 4 Cards 400-499	Additional Comments
Fun Class	Level 1	-----	-----	-----	A Fun Course must consist of 12-15 exercises in addition to the Start and Finish Markers, the Test Cards are from Level 1 only.
Novice	Level 1	Level 2	-----	-----	A Novice course must consist of 12-15 exercises in addition to the Start and Finish Markers. At least five (5) are from Level 2.
Advanced	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	-----	An Advanced course must consist of 14-16 exercises in addition to the Start and Finish Markers. At least five (5) of the signs are to be from Level 2 and at least five (5) from Level 3.

Excellent	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	An Excellent course must consist of 15-17 exercises in addition to the Start and Finish Markers. At least five (5) of the signs are to be from Level 2, five (5) from Level 3, and a maximum of four (4) from Level 4. The Distraction Exercise is to be included in the above signs. Right-hand Test Cards to be included.
Master	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	A Master and Grand Master course must consist of 18-20 exercises, in addition to the Start and Finish Markers. At least three (3) of the signs are to be from Level 2, three (3) from Level 3 and five (5) from Level 4. The Distraction Exercise is to be included in the above signs. Right-hand Test Cards to be included.

6.5. The Distance:

- 6.5.1. The distance between the handler and the dog during heeling and exercises should be no more than half a metre (0,5 metres), excluding exercises in which the dog is directed away from the handler, or remains in a certain position until the recall.

6.6. Exercise Area:

- 6.6.1. The Exercise Area is 1 x 1 metres if no other instruction has been given. The exercise is performed on the left side of the sign when the direction of the course does not change. When the direction is changed, the exercise is performed in front of the sign. In the Turning exercises, on the spot means approximately the size of an A4 size paper, except where otherwise specified.

- 6.6.2. Definition of (A), (B), (C) and (D) (Refer to the updated Sign Set for A, B, C and D.)

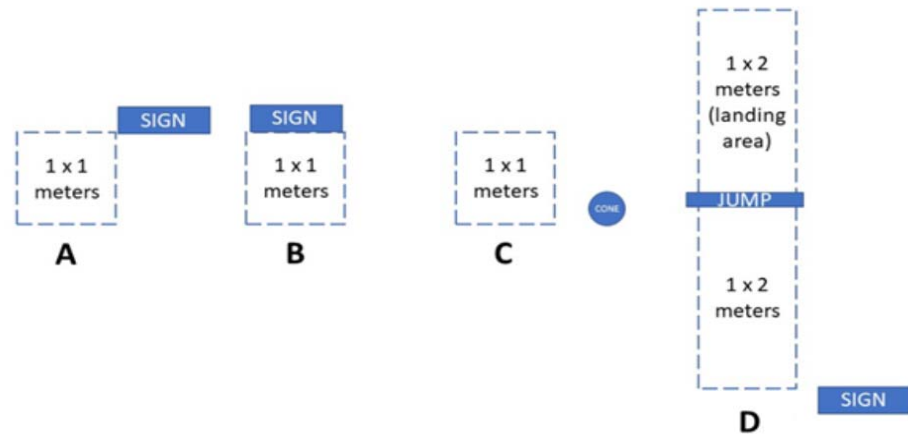
During performing an exercise, at least at one point a part of the team must be within the exercise area. Note, that the team is not allowed to go past the sign first and then start performing the exercise.

A: The exercise is performed on the left side of the sign when the direction of the course does not change (A). Exercises 417 and 418 begin according to (A), even though the direction is changed.

B: When the direction is changed or side steps are shown, the exercise is performed in front of the sign (B). The same counts for figure exercises 119, 120, 121, 122 and 221.

C: Recalls are done in front of the special recall signs (B), or next to the recall cone (C).

D: Exercises 222 and 320 begin at the earliest next to the sign. A landing area after the (last) jump is defined, where the dog must stay until the handler catches up with the dog (D). The exercise area is 1 x 2 meters if no other instruction has been given. See picture below:



6.6.3 During the start of the execution of any of the recall signs, i.e. 321, 322, 323, 421 and 422, a part of the Handler needs to be in the exercise area.

6.7. Numbering of Exercises:

6.7.1. Each sign shall be numbered to show the order of the course.

6.7.2. The number is to be displayed on the fixture of the A4 sign.

6.7.3. The position of the numbers will indicate the direction of entry or turn for the Figure of 8 sign (131) and the Distraction sign (221).

6.8. Repetition of exercises:

6.8.1. A specific exercise may be used a maximum of twice per course.

6.9. Cones:

6.9.1. The height of the cone should be between 25 - 40 cm.

6.10. Jumps:

6.10.1. With Jump exercises, the sign is placed two (2) meters before the Jump, and there is a two-metre landing area after the exercise. Jumps must not be closer than three (3) metres from the edge of the ring.

6.11. Jumps: Height of Jump(s):

6.11.1. This is defined by the dog's height at the withers, as follows:

Dog's Height	Obstacle Height
up to 30cm	10cm
from 30.1 to 40cm	20cm
from 40.1 to 50cm	30cm
50.01cm and higher	40cm

6.11.2. All Jumps must be constructed in such a manner that the horizontal bar/crossbar falls away from the hurdle in the dog's direction of travel.

6.11.3. With exercise 322 (send over two Jumps), the distance between Jumps is four (4) metres, measured from the middle of the crossbars.

6.11.4. There may be a maximum of three (3) Jump exercises per course.

6.12. Ring size:

6.12.1. The ring must be at least 25m x 25m in size without obstacles. The ring must be clearly demarcated with rope, ring tape or similar.

6.13. Start and Finish Markers:

6.13.1. The Start Marker shall be positioned a minimum of two (2) metres in from the boundary rope, with the Finish Marker inside the ring.

6.13.2. Start Marker: The Start Marker is an A sign, therefore the exercise is performed on the left side of the sign. The Handler positions the dog at the start of the 1m exercise area, the dog is in sit position. The Judge indicates that the Handler may start, and the dog and Handler move forward. Timing commences when either dog or Handler passes the Start Marker, whichever passes first.

6.13.3. Finish Marker: Normal pace shall always be used to pass the Finish Marker on the left side of the sign. Should the last sign before the Finish Marker be a different pace, the dog and Handler are to change to normal pace at the start of the 1m exercise area of the Finish Marker and pass the Finish Marker at normal pace. Timing ends when either dog or Handler passes the Finish Marker, whichever passes first.

6.14. Judging and Timing of Classes:

6.14.1. The Handler must wait for the Judge's permission to enter the ring.

6.14.2. For Novice, Advanced, Excellent and Master Classes, a cut-off time of four (4) minutes applies. Exceeding the time limit in these Classes will result in a point deduction per every 15 seconds over.

6.14.3. The Fun Class is timed for the purposes of assigning placings only.

6.14.4. In terms of timing Classes, Judges are to ensure that the timing is recorded to the hundredth of a second and that the time is noted on the score sheet immediately.

6.14.5. Judges are required to give Handlers brief feedback immediately after completion of the course, total scores to be called out. Adjustments after a Handler has left the ring are not permitted.

6.14.6. Judges are required to judge in accordance with the prevailing Judging Guidelines issued by the National Rally Dog Sub-committee

6.15. Training Devices:

6.15.1. Barbed or electrical collars, or other restraining devices, such as halters and muzzles which prevent dogs from drinking water, eating, or panting, are strictly forbidden. Muzzles that do not constrain panting or eating and drinking are permitted as a safety precaution.

- 6.15.2. Dogs are required to wear only KUSA-approved collars and leads. Harnesses are not permitted.

7. DISQUALIFICATION

- 7.1 Dog fouling the ring (wee or poop).
- 7.2 Continuous or intentional treat-dropping by Handler in Fun Class and for Novice NFC entries.
- 7.3 Handlers carrying food/toys on their person in Novice to Master.
- 7.4 Harsh handling (physically manhandling, hitting/yanking/pulling or dragging the dog/shouting at dog).
- 7.5 Dog leaving the ring with all four (4) paws.
- 7.6 Dog showing aggression.

8. RALLY RECORD CARDS

- 8.1. All dogs competing in Rally will be issued with a Rally Dog Record Card, which shall be presented by the handler to the Judge or Scribe at each Show prior to the class commencing.
- 8.2. At the conclusion of a class, if the dog has qualified, the Judge will enter the necessary information on the dog's Rally Dog Record Card.

9. RALLY JUDGES

- 9.1. In order for **Learner Judges** to judge Rally Dog, they must:
 - 9.1.1. Attend a Rally Judges' Workshop, hosted by the Provincial Council Sub-Committee.
 - 9.1.2. Pass a written closed book exam on the following KUSA Schedules, both with a pass mark of 80% (eighty percent):
 - 9.1.2.1. A paper on Schedule 03, the Temporary Exclusion Order (TEO) Manual and Schedule 09 Appendix B, set by the Judges Education Council (JEC) of KUSA; and
 - 9.1.2.2. A paper on Schedule 05T, set by the National Sub-committee and marked by the National Rally Dog Sub-committee Convener. If required, moderation should be done by a member of the National Sub-committee provided the Learner Judge is not from their province.
 - 9.1.2.3. No more than eight (8) months may pass between the Learner Judge writing their Schedule 05T, the JEC exam and/or completion of their shadow judging. If a Learner Judge is unable to complete the process of becoming a Judge timeously, the Learner Judge must provide a written motivation and request to the National Rally Dog Sub-committee for review and voting.
 - 9.1.2.4. Upon completion of marking of either exam, the JEC or the National Rally Dog Sub-Committee, as the case may be, shall notify the results to

the KUSA Office under strict confidentiality.

- 9.1.2.5. Once checked and verified, the KUSA Office shall be the only authority to release results to the candidates.
- 9.1.3. Compete in Rally Dog a minimum of three (3) Shows in the Novice Class or above, or act as a Steward at a minimum of five (5) Shows.
- 9.1.4. Shadow a Qualified Rally Judge at a minimum of two (2) Shows, after which the Qualified Rally Judge will check and endorse the Learner Rally Judge's marking and sign off the Learner Judges' Record Card, provided the Learner Rally Judge is deemed fit to judge.
- 9.2. After successfully completing the above, KUSA will accredit Learner Judges as Licensed Judges and they may accept appointments to judge Rally Dog at Championship and Non-championship Shows.
 - 9.2.1. Newly qualified Judges are required to submit the courses for their first two contracted Judging appointments in advance to an experienced Rally Dog Judge, who is not competing on the day, for approval.
- 9.3. All locally domiciled Judges shall be members in good standing of the Kennel Union of Southern Africa and shall be over the age of 18 (eighteen) years at the time when formal studies or activities towards judging qualifications commence, and/or any judging is undertaken.
- 9.4. In the event of a Judge not having judged Rally for a period of 3 (three) years (i.e. since his/her last appointment), the Judge shall be deemed to be an Inactive Judge.
- 9.5. A Judge is required to attend a Rally Dog Refresher Course at least once every two (2) years to maintain his judging status. Such Refresher Courses are to be hosted by the Judge's Provincial Council or by the National Rally Dog Sub-committee.
- 9.6. An **Inactive Judge who wishes to resume judging Rally Dog**, must:
 - 9.6.1. Attend a Rally Judges' Workshop, hosted by the Provincial Council Sub-Committee.
 - 9.6.2. Rewrite and pass a written closed book exam on the following KUSA Schedules, both with a pass mark of 80% (eighty percent):
 - 9.6.2.1. A paper on Schedule 03, the Temporary Exclusion Order (TEO) Manual and Schedule 09 Appendix B, set by the Judges Education Council (JEC) of KUSA; and
 - 9.6.2.2. A paper on Schedule 05T, set by the National Rally Dog Sub-Committee.
 - 9.6.2.3. Upon completion of marking of either exam, the JEC or the National Rally Dog Sub-Committee, as the case may be, shall notify the results to the KUSA Office under strict confidentiality.
 - 9.6.2.4. Once checked and verified, the KUSA Office shall be the only authority to release results to the candidates.
 - 9.6.3. Having fulfilled the above requirements, an Inactive Judge must first judge a Non-championship Show under the supervision of a Qualified Rally Judge, who

shall issue a report for consideration by the Provincial Council Sub-Committee. Should no Provincial Council Sub-Committee exist, the report shall be issued for assessment by the National Rally Sub-Committee. If satisfied, the Provincial Council Sub-Committee, or National Rally Sub-Committee, as the case may be, shall advise the KUSA Office that the Inactive Judge may be reinstated as a Licensed Judge and the KUSA Office shall inform the Inactive Judge that he/she may resume accepting appointments at Championship and Non-championship Shows.

10. MANAGEMENT OF RALLY DOG EVENTS

10.1. The Show Manager

- 10.1.1. The management of any Rally event at a Show shall be entrusted to the Show Manager who shall be a Member in good standing of KUSA and appointed by the show-holding Club.

10.2. Appointing a Rally Judge and Scribe

- 10.2.1. The Provincial Council Sub-Committee will assist clubs, if required, in assigning a Rally Judge for each Show where Rally is to be included in the Show Schedule.
- 10.2.2. The Rally Judge will arrange their own Scribe, who shall also act as Timekeeper.

10.3. Disputes

- 10.3.1. Any disputed matter requiring a decision on the ground shall be decided by the Show Manager and the Judge. However, the control of all matters connected with the dogs during competition shall be the prerogative of the Judge of the event but the Show Manager may be called upon for assistance, if required.
- 10.3.2. No competitor shall impugn the decision of the Judge. The Judge's decision is final.
- 10.3.3. Unseemly behaviour towards the Judge will result in disqualification.

10.4. Complaints

- 10.4.1. Complaints lodged by competitors will be dealt with in accordance with the Kennel Union of Southern Africa's Regulations.

10.5. Other Matters

- 10.5.1. Any matter not provided for in the KUSA Regulations shall be decided by a simple majority of votes exercised by the Show Manager and the Judge and their decision will be final. In the event of an equality of votes, the KUSA Representative, where one is present, shall cast the deciding vote. Alternatively, the Show Secretary will cast the deciding vote.
- 10.5.2. The Rally Judge shall ensure that an up-to-date copy of KUSA Schedule 05T, as well as the Rally Judges' Guidelines and the Rally Signs Document, shall be on hand at all times.

10.6. Appointing a Rally Dog Judge and Steward

- 10.6.1. The Rally Dog Judge will arrange their own Steward who shall also act as Timekeeper.
- 10.6.2. A Steward is required to assist the Judge with their course set-up and dismantling, calling for competitors, management of Record Cards, as well as assisting with timekeeping and scribing on the Judge's Sheets.



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