

MOTIVATION FOR RALLY DOG SCHEDULE 5T CHANGES

20/09/2022

Clause 3.2

- 3.2 Once the dog is a Rally Champion it [~~will have progressed~~] **will progress** to the Grand Master Class. A dog awarded with 15 (fifteen) Qualifying Certificates at Championship shows, evenly issued under a minimum of 3 (three) different Judges, in the Grand Master Class, the dog then qualifies for Grand Champion status and will be issued with a KUSA certificate to that effect.

Grammar amendment

New clause 4.1

4.1 A dog must be a minimum of 6 (six) months of age to enter the Fun Class.

There are no jumps in the Fun Class and often handlers are looking for something fun to do with their puppies, we wish to encourage this and thereby are lowering the minimum age to 6 months for the fun class.

Previous 4.2, now 4.3

- 4.[2] **3** A[ny] dog may compete that is not in conflict with the regulations hereunder described or who has not been disqualified or suspended from competition by KUSA [~~and who has been issued with a Rally Record Card~~].

Deletion of the words 'who has been issued with a Rally record card' as the new clause 4.4 provides details regarding the Rally record card.

New clause 4.4

4.4 A dog may compete in Rally who has been issued with a Rally Dog Record card, such card to be issued by the Provincial Rally Dog sub-committee. In order to obtain a Rally Dog Record card, the handler/owner of the dog is to send to the Provincial Rally Dog sub-committee the dogs KUSA registration certificate (or another means of providing the relevant information needed to issue the card). The Provincial sub-committee will confirm with the handler what information is required.

Detailing the issuing of rally record cards and the information required by the Provincial sub-committee in order to issue a record card.

* per a discussion with Pascale Midgeley to the National Convenor a few months ago, KUSA will be drafting a document to clarify the requirements for the issuing of Record cards for all disciplines? Once this has been done, the schedule / this clause will amend to match the document from KUSA.

New clause 4.5

4.5 Should a handler who wishes to enter the Fun Class not have a Rally Dog record card, they may enter "Not For Competition" (NFC). NFC means that they do not obtain a placing or receive a qualification. Entering NFC may not occur more than 3 (three) times. The Provincial Rally Dog sub-committee has the right to request the handler to cease competing if no attempt is made to obtain a Rally Dog record card.

Detailing that if a handler arrives at a show without a record card they may still enter NFC. This ensures the clubs hosting the show still gain entry fee and the handler still gets to try Rally. The sub-committees have agreed to monitor this so that handlers do obtain a record card after 3 NFC entries.

Previous 4.3, now 4.6

- 4.[3] **6** 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 [~~to compete in the higher class~~] **out of the class.**

Housekeeping / clarity

Previous 4.4, now 4.7

4.[4] **7** A dog entered in any [Championship] Show may not be entered in more than one Rally class at the same Show.

Clause now covers any show and not only a Championship show (as handlers have wanted to enter more than 1 rally class (fun & novice) at a non-championship show.

4.5 now becomes 4.8 – no changes to clause

4.6 now becomes 4.9

4.[6] **9** Health – dogs that are ill or injured or visibly lame are not permitted to compete in Rally events. **A dog who has an injury or limp must have a letter from a member of the South African Veterinary Association (which may include but not be limited to, Vets, Physiotherapists etc). The letter is not to be older than 6 (six) months and is to state what the dog is diagnosed with and if the dog is not in any pain it may compete. Should the judge on the day, feel that the dog is unfit to compete, the judge has the discretion to refuse the entry.**

The NRDSC debated this clause in detail and decided on the clause amendments and elaborated on injured dogs, as we do have a Senior class which might consist of a dog who has impaired mobility.

New clause 4.10

Bitches in season are not permitted to enter Rally Dog classes.

The same course and ring is used for all classes (the signs differ) and having a bitch scent the grass will distract any dog and this would be unfair on other handlers.

Clause 5.1

5.1 Fun Class – Non-Championship Shows only

All dogs [of any] **from 6 (six) months of** age can participate in the Fun Class, which will only be held at Non-Championship Shows.

The Fun Class will commence after the other Rally classes.

Dogs will work on leash. The following training aids are permitted on course: Food, toy, gentle commands, words of praise and encouragement. Handlers will however not be permitted to drop food on the course, nor throw a ball on the course, toy rewards are to be controlled, for example, the dog is not permitted to run after a ball whilst on the course.

Once a dog has qualified (achieved 90% or higher) 10 (ten) times in the Fun Class they are required to move up to the Novice level. The dogs Rally Record card will be completed each time a dog achieves 90% or higher. Incentives, rosettes and/or prizes for the Fun Class will solely be at the discretion of the show holding club.

Refer to insertion of new clause 4.1 – dogs from 6 months may enter the Fun class

Clause 5.2 (Senior class)

5.2 Senior Class – Non-Championship Shows only

All dogs over 8 years of age and dogs [of any age] **over 12 (twelve) months of age** with disabilities may participate in the Senior class. **Food, treats and/or toys are not permitted in the senior class.**

A dog who has an injury or limp must have a letter from a member of the South African Veterinary Association (which may include but not be limited to, Vets, Physiotherapists etc). The letter is not to be older than 6 (six) months and is to state what the dog is diagnosed with and if the dog is not in any pain it may compete. Should the judge on the day, feel that the dog is unfit to compete, the judge has the discretion to refuse the entry.

It will be the handlers' choice to work on or off leash. Dogs can qualify as many times as they wish. The Senior Class will commence after the [Fun] **Advanced** class.

There is no qualifying percentage in the Senior class. Placing will be determined as First, Second and Third.

Sharp turns and corners will be avoided and distances between cones will be increased. Incentives, rosettes and/or prizes for the Senior Class will solely be at the discretion of the show holding club.

Amendment to reflect 'over the age of 12 months', as a dog must be 12 months or older to compete in any class except the Fun class.

Food, treats and/or toys are not permitted in Senior (this was previously not in the schedule and is now inserted for clarity).

A repeat of clause 4.9 regarding mobility impaired dogs.

The Senior class is now on the same course as the Advanced class, therefore the amendment to when the course will run (no longer after Fun).

Clause 5.4 (Advanced Class)

5.4 Advanced Class – Championship and Non-Championship Shows

All dogs who have qualified a minimum of 3 (three) times and a maximum of 5 (five) times in Novice now participates in the Advanced class.

Dogs may remain on leash, at the discretion of the handler. ~~[It is at the judge's discretion if they will award extra points for dogs being off leash, the judge is to communicate this to the handlers prior to the start of the class.]~~

Food, treats and/or toys are not permitted in the ring, however encouragement and limited words of praise are permitted.

In order to qualify out of the Advanced class, a dog must have qualified with a qualification of 90% and above a minimum of 3 (three) times and a maximum of 5 (five) times, at either Championship or Non-Championship shows. Once the dog has qualified 5 (five) times, the dog must progress to the Excellent class.

It was decided that a class is either onlead or off lead. Also, no judges have been awarding extra points for being off lead, so the decision was that it was unnecessary to have the wording remain.

Clause 5.7 (Grand Master class)

5.7 Grand Master Class – Championship and Non-championship shows ~~[only]~~

All dogs who have achieved 3 (three) qualifying certificates at Master level may now compete in the Grand Master Class.

All items as per Master Class above also applies for the Grand Master class.

After achieving 15 (fifteen) Qualifying Certificates at Championship Shows, evenly issued under a minimum of 3 (three) different Judges, the dog then qualifies for Grand Champion status and will be issued with a KUSA certificate to that effect. The 3 (three) initial Master Class Qualifying Certificates shall count towards this achievement.

The Grand Master class to be held at non championship as well as championship shows.

It was decided that handlers at this level could want to practise at a non-championship show and should be able to if they choose too. If the class is only held at Championship shows, this limits the handler (some provinces only have a handful of championship show per annum).

Clause 6.3 (Course Orientation)

6.3 Course orientation: One course orientation per class will take place. The competitors will have 10 (ten) minutes under the supervision of the judge to familiarize themselves with the course layout. **Dogs are not permitted on the course during the course orientation.** The competitors may ask questions within the time allowed.

Addition 'dogs are not permitted on the course during orientation'. This is for clarity for handlers.

Table under Clause 6.4 (Test Cards)

Note that the amended table is not inserted in this motivation as it takes up space.

From the Excellent class onwards, an error was picked up in that the Temptation and Distraction are one sign but had been labelled incorrectly in the table, causing confusion. Therefore, to clarity, the wording now reads 'plus the Temptation exercise' (also, the sign reads Temptation).

It was decided that the level of difficulty for the Senior class was too high (it was previously harder than the Masters class), therefore the class is being lowered to the same level of the Advanced class.

This will also reduce the number of courses a judge is required to design. The Senior class will use the same course as the Advanced class and the class will be held after the Advanced class (see amendment in 5.2 above).

It was decided that Grand Master class will be tested on the same course as the Master class but be separated in their own class (the aim of the GM class is for the champion dogs to compete against each other not 'bottle-neck' in the Master class, possibly preventing other Master level dogs from achieving QC's).

Clause 6.9 (Cones)

6.9 **Cones:** The height of the cone should be ~~[no more than]~~ **between 25cm to** 40cm. A minimum cone height has been introduced (to prevent 'flat cones' from being used) – the dog needs to move around a cone and not be able to step over it.

Clause 6.1 (Jump Heights)

6.11 **Jumps: Height of jump(s):** This is defined by the dog's height at the withers, as follows:

Dog's Height	Obstacle Height
[<] Up to 30 cm	10 cm
[<] Up to 40 cm	20 cm
[<] Up to 50 cm	30 cm
[> 50 cm] and higher	40 cm

For housekeeping / clarity purposes the 'greater than' sign is removed and replaced with the words 'up to' and 'and higher'.

Clause 6.12 (Ring size)

6.12 **Ring size:** The ring must be at least ~~[(20m x 20m)]~~ **25m x 25m** ~~[400 square meters]~~ in size without obstacles, with a minimum of ~~[20]~~ **25** meters in side length. The ring must be clearly marked with ring tape.

Minimum ring size to increase to 25 x 25 metres. Judges are finding it difficult to produce a higher level course in the smaller ring size, especially when jumps and the tunnel is used.

Clause 6.13 (Start and Finish markers)

6.13 **Start and Finish Markers:** The start ~~[and finish]~~ Marker[s] shall be positioned a minimum of ~~[4 (four)]~~ **2 (two)** metres in from the boundary rope, **with the finish marker inside the ring.**

Start marker amended to be placed 2 metres in from the ring tape. In practise we find that 4 metres in from the tape is unnecessary. Addition of the wording 'finish marker to be inside the ring' as this is when the timer is stopped, having a judge set a finish marker up outside the ring is unfair as there might be a distraction outside the ring which affects the dog.

Clause 6.14 (Judging)

6.14 **Judging:** The handler must wait for the Judges' permission to enter the ring ~~[on a loose leash]~~. The stopwatch will start from when the handler and dog move away from the Start Marker. The handler and dog are under judging from the Start Marker to the Finish Marker.

Housekeeping: the classes from Excellent upwards are tested off leash.

Clause 7 (Record cards)

7.1 All dogs who compete in Rally will be issued with a Rally Record Card which shall be presented **by the handler to the judge or scribe** at each show prior to the class commencing.

For clarity

New clause 7.2, repeat of new clause 4.4 regarding the issuing of rally record cards

7.2 In order to obtain a Rally Record card, the handler/owner of the dog is to send to the Provincial Rally Dog sub-committee the dogs KUSA registration certificate (or another means of providing the relevant information needed to issue the card). The Provincial sub-committee will confirm with the handler what information is required.

Repeat of new clause 4.4 regarding the issuing of rally record cards – for clarity.

Clause 7.2 now 7.3 due to insertion of new 7.2

Clause 8 (Rally judges) – *NOTE: the majority of amendments to the clause are as a result of the Fedco June 2022 minutes, please refer to the letter submitted by the NRDSC in conjunction with the below clause (in particular the new clause).*

8.1 In order for existing Working Disciplines Judges to judge Rally they must:

Attend a Rally Judges Workshop, hosted by the Provincial sub-committee

Pass a written **closed book** exam on **the following** KUSA Schedules:

Schedule 3 (Exam set by KUSA/JEC and approved by the National Rally Dog Sub Committee)

Schedule 9, Appendix B (Exam set by KUSA/JEC and approved by the National Rally Dog Sub Committee)

Schedule 5T (Exam set by National Rally Dog Sub Committee)

The minimum pass mark for the above exams is 80% (eighty percent).

~~[, where after] After fulfilling the above, [they] KUSA will [be] issue[d] the judges license [their Rally Judges License] and they may now accept appointments to judge Rally. [at either a Non Championship show or a Championship show. Working Disciplines to incorporate Obedience, Dog Jumping, Agility, Carting, Working Trials and Flyball.]~~

Amendments for housekeeping / clarity as well as to amend to the minutes / further correspondence received from the KUSA office and to include the NRDSC's suggestions (see letter submitted in this regard).

In addition, the NRDSC decided to remove the names of working disciplines as everyone is aware of which disciplines constitute a working discipline and we do not want to limit any discipline by omitting them and we would not need to amend our schedule should a new discipline start up.

8.2 Learner Rally judges, who are not current Working Disciplines judges, are required to:

Attend a Rally Judges Workshop, hosted by the Provincial sub-committee

Pass a written **closed book** exam on **the following** KUSA Schedules:

Schedule 3 (Exam set by KUSA/JEC and approved by the National Rally Dog Sub Committee)

Schedule 9, Appendix B (Exam set by KUSA/JEC and approved by the National Rally Dog Sub Committee)

Schedule 5T (Exam set by National Rally Dog Sub Committee)

The minimum pass mark for the above exams is 80% (eighty percent).

A learner judge is to apply to their Provincial sub-committee and to have either competed in Rally a minimum of 3 (three) times or have acted as a scribe / timekeeper / judges assistant for a minimum of 5 (five) shows.

~~In addition to the above, [a Learner Rally Judge must shadow judge under 2 (two) different judges at 2 (two) separate shows.]~~

~~[T]he Learner Rally Judge will be required to shadow judge at 2 (two) shows whilst the Qualified Rally Judge judges the shows. On completion, and after the Qualified Rally Judge has checked~~

and endorsed the Learner Rally Judge's marking, the Qualified Rally Judge signs the Learner Judges' record card, which is submitted to the **Provincial** Rally Sub-Committee and then submitted to KUSA, who will in turn issue a Rally Judges License. The now qualified Rally Judge may accept judging appointments [~~for Non-Championship or Championship shows~~].

For housekeeping / clarity as well as to amend to the minutes / further correspondence received from the KUSA office and to include the NRDSC's suggestions (see letter submitted in this regard).

Removal of 8.3: New Province – Learner Judges

The NRDSC will ensure that any new Provincial sub-committee that is formed is assisted to get judges qualified, therefore there is no longer a need for this clause.

New Clause 8.3:

8.3 Notification of Results:

8.3.1 All exams written, will be submitted to the National Rally Dog subcommittee for appraisal.

8.3.2 Once appraised by the National Rally Dog Subcommittee, Schedule 3 and Schedule 9 Appendix B exams will be forwarded to KUSA/JEC to be ratified.

8.3.3 The National Rally Dog Subcommittee will notify the Learner judges of the results on receiving ratification and their Learner judges' cards will be issued.

The insertion of this new clause relates to the correspondence submitted to Fedco regarding the setting up of and marking of the schedule 3 and 9 Appendix B exams, as well as the setting up & marking of the Schedule 5T exam.

We await KUSA to discuss this clause and to consider the input given from the NRDSC in this regard.

Amendments to clause 8.5

[8.4] 8.5 Inactive Judges

In the event of a Judge not judging for a period of 3 (three) calendar years or more, said judge:

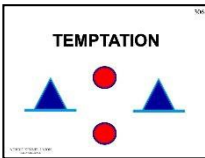
**Is to attend a Judges Workshop and,
Is to re-write the Schedule 3, 9 (Appendix B) and Schedule 5T exam, closed book,
and obtain a minimum pass mark of 80%**

The inactive judge May not judge a Championship Show but shall first judge a Non-Championship Show. This will be under the supervision of a Qualified Rally Judge.

A written report by the supervising judge to be completed and sent to the provincial sub-committee as proof.

The KUSA office requested Discipline sub-committees to re-consider the wording to their Inactive Judges clause and suggested to amend the clause, hence the above amendments.

In addition to the Schedule 5T amendments, we have changed 1 (one) sign in the Rally Signs document, this being sign 309, we have amended the wording to better describe the sign:

	<p>309. [DISTRACTION] <u>TEMPTATION</u></p> <p>Two cones are placed 2,5–3 meters apart. The team must enter the exercise as decided by the judge. The team performs a complete figure 8 around the cones, crossing the center line three times.</p> <p>Toys, treats or both may be used as [distractions] <u>Temptations</u>. <u>Anything edible is to be placed in a covered container which may have holes pierced in the lid. Water may not be used as a Temptation.</u></p>
---	--

The NRDSC have also formulated a revised Rally Dog Judges Guideline, which we also submit for Fedco's information. As agreed previously, the Judges Guidelines are not to be published on KUSA's website and will remain with the NRDSC and the judges.

Thank you for the time taken to attend to the amendments by the NRDSC. We do not envisage so many changes to be made at one time again, this was a collaboration by all provinces in the NRDSC and as Rally Dog is a new discipline, now that we are actively competing in Rally Dog across South Africa, most of the above changes became apparent as we rolled Rally Dog out nationally.

Yours sincerely,

Robyn Clements (National Convenor – Rally Dog)