

REGULATIONS FOR RALLY DOG
(Effective [01.10.2024] Date to be confirmed by KUSA)

DEFINITION OF RALLY DOG

Rally Dog (hereinafter referred to as "Rally") is a dog sport 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 the connection between dog and handler between and at the stations.

The emphasis of Rally is for the dog and handler to work as a team whilst having fun.

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 to do with Shows are set out in KUSA Schedule 3 (Regulations for Championship Shows). These standards shall apply to Rally. There is no conflict with the specific terms of this Schedule 5T.

2. SCOPE OF LICENCE

- 2.1 A Club which is qualified to hold a Championship Show may hold a Championship and/or a non-Championship show under the relevant licenses.
- 2.2 A Club which is not qualified to hold a Championship Show may hold a non-Championship show under the relevant show license.

3. RALLY CERTIFICATES

- 3.1 When the dog reaches the Master Class and achieves a qualification at a Championship show, it will be awarded with a Qualifying Certificate. When 3 (three) qualifying certificates are earned, under 3 (three) separate judges, the dog then qualifies for Champion status and will be issued with a KUSA certificate to that effect.
- 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.
- 3.3 The required percentage to qualify in the Novice, Advanced and Excellent classes is 90% and in the Master and Grand Master classes the required percentage to qualify is 95%.

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.[4] **2** A[ny] dog that is 12 (twelve) months and older may compete in Novice to Grand Master classes and is eligible to become a Champion or a Grand Champion. The dog is to be registered with the Kennel Union of Southern Africa (KUSA) in the Breed register, Dogsport Record, or in the Appendix Register.
- 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]~~.

4.4 A dog may compete in Rally Dog as long as it 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 dog's 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.

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.

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.**

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

4.[5] **8** 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 dogs Rally Record Card to the judge prior to the commencement of the draw.

4.[6] **9** Health – dogs that are ill or injured or visibly lame are not permitted to compete in Rally events. **A dog that 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.**

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

5. DEFINITION OF CLASSES

5.1 Fun Class – Non-Championship Shows only

All dogs ~~[of any]~~ **from six (6) 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.

5.2 Senior Class – Non-Championship Shows only

All dogs over 8 years of age and dogs ~~[of any age]~~ **over twelve (12) 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 that 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 six (6) 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.

5.3 Novice Class – Championship and Non-Championship shows

Novice is the first competitive class in Rally. Food, treats and/or toys are no longer permitted in the ring, however encouragement and words of praise are permitted.

Dogs may remain on leash, at the discretion of the handler. There will be no extra points gained if a dog is off leash.

A cut off time of 4 (four) minutes is now introduced. The timing will commence from the Start Marker to the Finish Marker. In the event of a tie for points between 2 (two) or more dogs, the fastest time on the course will earn first place and so forth. This applies to all classes from Novice to Grand Master.

In order to qualify out of the Novice 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 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.

5.5 Excellent 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 the Advanced Class now participates in the Excellent Class.

In Excellent, 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 whilst on the course, or the lead may be placed outside the ring.

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 Excellent 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 Master class.

5.6 Master Class – Championship and Non- Championship shows

All dogs who have qualified 3 (three) times in the Excellent class may participate in the Master Class. 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 whilst on the course, or the lead may be placed outside the ring.

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

A dog achieving the qualification percentage of 95% or higher, at 3 (three) Championship shows, under 3 (three) different judges, is eligible for Championship status. See Item 3.1.

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.

6. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- 6.1 **Course layout:** The course layout will be made visible to competitors approximately one hour before the start of the round.

- 6.2 **Order of competitors:** The order of competition shall be determined by a Judges' draw. However, should the course contain a Jump exercise, the order will be dependent on the jump height. Amendments to the draw shall be at the Judges' discretion.
- 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.
- 6.4 **Test Cards:** must be clearly marked on an A4 sign, secured to the ground not higher than 0,3m. The test cards will be arranged in such a way that they are no danger to the dogs or handlers and placed so that the distance between each test card shall be not less than 3 (three) meters and should not exceed 6 (six) metres.

The Test Cards are defined as per the table below:

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 Only				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, of which at least five (5) are from Level 2.
Advanced & Seniors	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3		An Advanced course must consist of 14-16 exercises in addition to the Start and Finish markers, of which at least five (5) are 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, of which at least five (5) are from Level 2, five (5) from Level 3, and a Maximum of four (4) from Level 4 PLUS one the [Distraction] Temptation Exercise.
Masters & Grand Masters	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	A Masters course must consist of 18-20 exercises, in addition to the Start and Finish markers of which at least three (3) are from Level 2, three (3) from Level 3 and five (5) from Level 4 PLUS one the [Distraction] Temptation Exercise.
[Grand Masters]	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	A Grand Masters course must consist of 18-20 exercises, in addition to the Start and Finish markers of which at least four (4) are from Level 2, five (5) from Level 3 and eight (8) from Level 4 PLUS one Distraction Exercise.
Seniors	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3 (no Jumps)	Level 4 (no Jumps)	A Senior course must consist of 12-18 exercises, in addition to the Start and Finish markers of which at least three (3) are from Level 2, three (3) from Level 3 and five (5) from Level 4 PLUS one Distraction Exercise.

- 6.5 **The Distance:** The distance between the handler and the dog during heeling and exercises should be no more than 0, 5 meters, apart from exercises in which the dog is directed away from the handler or remains in a certain position until recall.
- 6.6 **Exercise Area:** The exercise area is 1 x 1 meters 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.

- 6.7 **Numbering of exercises:** Each station shall be numbered to show the order on the course. The number should be displayed on the fixture of the A4 Sign. From the position of the numbers, it must be clear from which side the exercise is to be negotiated (with the exception of a U-shaped tunnel where the number will be placed in the middle to indicate that either side maybe taken).
- 6.8 **Tunnel:** The tunnel has to be flexible and the standard FCI safety specifications are to be taken into account. The tunnel must be 3-6 meters long and can be positioned to be a straight or u-shaped obstacle.
- 6.9 **Cones:** The height of the cone should be ~~[no more than]~~ **between 25cm to** 40cm.
- 6.10 **Jumps and Tunnel:** With jump and tunnel exercises, the sign is placed two meters before the jump, and there is a two-meter landing area after the exercise. Tunnels and jumps must not be closer than 3 meters from the edge of the ring.
- 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

All jumps must be constructed in such a manner that the horizontal bar/crossbars will fall away from the hurdle, in the dog's direction of travel.

With exercise 322 (send over two jumps), the distance between jumps is (4) four meters. There can be a maximum of (3) three jumps or tunnel exercises per course.

- 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.
- 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.**
- 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.
- 6.15 **Repetition of exercises:** A specific exercise can be used maximum two times per course, the recall exercise being an exception.
- 6.16 **Training devices:** No barbed, electrical collars and other constraining devices or means, such as halters and muzzles where dogs cannot drink water, eat or pant, are forbidden. Muzzles that leave room for panting, eating and drinking are permitted as the dogs are seen as a work in progress and it is a safety precaution.

7. RALLY 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.
- 7.2 **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 dog's KUSA registration certificate (or another means of providing the relevant information needed to issue the card). The Provincial Rally Dog Sub-Committee will confirm with the handler what information is required.**
- 7.~~[2]~~**3** At the conclusion of a class, if the dog has qualified, the Judge will complete the necessary information on the dog's Rally Record Card.

8. RALLY JUDGES

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.]~~

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 Dog a minimum of three (3) times or have acted as a Scribe / Timekeeper / Judges Assistant for a minimum of five (5) 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 **two (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].~~

8.3 Notification of Results:

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

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

8.3.3 The National Rally Dog Sub-Committee will notify the Learner Judges of the results on receiving ratification, and their Learner Judges' licence will be issued.

~~[8.3] New Province – Learner Judges~~

~~When starting Rally as a new discipline in a Province, and there is no current qualified judge to judge Rally, an exception is made for Learner Rally Judges;~~

~~8.3.1 Learner judges who have passed a written exam on KUSA Schedule 3 and KUSA Schedule 5T, must design a course to be approved by a Qualified Rally Judge from another Province.~~

~~8.3.2 Learner Rally Judges then judge 3 (three) separate classes and compare their score sheets to ensure the same standard is maintained. These score sheets are then sent to a Qualified Rally Judge for approval and endorsement.~~

~~8.3.3 Should there only be 1 (one) Learner Rally Judge, he/she will judge 3 (three) separate classes and submit their score sheets to a Qualified Rally Judge for approval and endorsement.]~~

~~[8.3]~~ **8.4** All locally domiciled Judges shall be members in good standing of the Kennel Union of South Africa and shall be over the age of 18 (eighteen) years at the time when formal studies or activities towards a judging qualification commence, and/or any judging is undertaken.

~~[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 Schedule 3 and 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.

9. MANAGEMENT OF RALLY EVENTS

9.1 Rally Show Manager

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

9.2 Appointing a Rally Judge and Scribe

The provincial sub-committee will allocate a Rally judge for each show where Rally is to be included in the Show Schedule. The Rally judge will arrange their own scribe, who shall also act as Timekeeper.

9.3 Disputes

9.3.1 Any disputed matter requiring a decision on the ground shall be decided by the Rally Show Manager and the Judge(s). However, the control of all matters connected with the dogs during competition shall rest with the Judge(s) of the event but the Manager, if required, may be called upon for assistance.

9.3.2 No competitor shall impugn the decision of the Judge. The Judges' decision is final.

9.3.3 Unseemly behaviour towards the Judge will result in disqualification.

9.4 Complaints

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

9.5 Other Matters

- 9.5.1 Any matter not provided for in the KUSA Regulations shall be decided by a simple majority vote by the Rally Show Manager and the Judge(s) 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 and their decision shall be final.
- 9.5.2 The Rally Judge shall, at all times, ensure that the latest copy of KUSA Schedule 5T, as well as the Rally Judges Guidelines and the Rally Signs Document, is on hand.



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