

RALLY JUDGING GUIDELINES – Revision January 2021

- The judging guidelines have been set up to assist judges in deducting points from the total points allocated per class level. The total points allocated for the classes are as follows:

Fun, Senior & Novice	100
Advanced & Excellent	150
Master & Grand Master	200

- Deductions are made based on the Judge's assessment of the dog and handler from the Start marker to the Finish marker and all Test cards on the course.
- There is an 'Overall Impression' allocation of marks which comes out of the Total points allocated, which the judge may deduct (or part thereof) for the dog and handler not focused / not working well as a team. An example would be, a dog is lagging throughout the course, the dog is not "happy", the judge will make a deduction (to suit the level of class and the amount of points deducted is at the judges discretion but judges are to be fair). Another example could be that the handler holds a tight lead most of the time.
- The dog and handler are timed from the Start to the Finish marker, with a cut off time of 4 (four) minutes permitted on the course. Exceeding the time limit results in disqualification.
- Dogs from the age of 12 (twelve) months may start competing in Rally.
- To compete in the Senior class, dogs can be 8 (eight) years or older, or younger than 8 years if they have compromised movement, however, they may not be in any pain or discomfort.
- A dog's physical nature & size are to be taken into account when judging, for example, dachshunds often cannot sit straight due to their longer back legs. Likewise, a Boerbull / Mastiff size dog, or a Great Dane, might struggle with the tunnel. Judges are not to deduct points when they can see the dog is physically unable to perform an exercise (particularly in the Fun and Senior classes).
- Re-trying of an exercise is permitted once per Test Card, this applies to all classes. There is no deduction for re-trying a test card, as the team will 'lose time' by doing this in any event.

Fun / Senior / Novice Classes (Total points: 100)

½ Point deductions

Lagging / dog slower than handler

Dog touches/sniffs at a sign or cone (wagging tail excluded)

Delay in dog's response by more than 5 seconds

Dog out of position by more than 45 degrees and less than 90 degrees

1 Point deductions

Handler touches sign or cone

Tight lead

Failure of dog to move on handlers cue as specified in the test card

2 Point deductions

Handler touches the dog

Excessive barking / dog jumping up

Dog moves out of position during static exercise(s) (sits, stands or downs when not supposed to)

Advanced and Excellent classes (Total points: 150)

1 Point deductions

Handler knocks over a sign or cone

Excessive cues

Dog out of position by more than 30 degrees and less than 90 degrees

Delay in dog's response by more than 5 seconds

2 Point deductions

Tight lead (applies to Advanced only, as Excellent is without a lead)
Dog or handlers knocks over a sign or cone
Dog moves towards the distraction exercise
Handler performs an exercise visibly outside the designated area (1m x)

3 Point deductions

Dog repeatedly sniffing the ground
Dog crosses the handler's path
Dog lagging
Dog moves out of position during static exercise(s) (sits, stands or downs when not supposed to).
Dog out of position when heeling (more than .5 m from handler)
Harsh reprimands by the handler
Wide / loose turns
Dog sits in an exercise when stop is not part of the exercise

5 Point deductions

Overly large circles in slalom, spirals and walk arounds
Dog jumps up and down during an exercise
Dog refuses to attempt the jump(s) or goes past the jump(s) on the 2nd attempt (ie, on the retry of the exercise)
Dog makes a false start (ie anticipates the recall)
Dog changes heeling side when not supposed to
Performing exercise at wrong pace
Handler stops when not supposed to (ie, lost on course)
Handler touches the dog

Master and Grand Master classes (Total points: 200)

2 Point deductions

Excessive cues (Note that in Master & Grand Master, commands may be given verbally and physically, together or separately, however they may only be given once)
Dog out of position when heeling (more than 0.5m from the handler)
Delay in dog's response
Dog or handler knocks over a sign or cone

5 Point deductions

Dog moves toward the distraction exercise (other than a glance)
Handler performs an exercise visibly outside the designated area (1m x 1m)
Dog repeatedly sniffing the ground
Dog crosses onto handler's path
Dog changes heeling side when not supposed to
Dog lagging
Dog tries to change position in a static exercise (from a sit to a down etc)
Wide and loose turns
Dog makes a false start (ie anticipates the recall)

10 Point deductions

Dog out of position ie, more than 0.5m from the handler at the heel position, sitting more than 45 degrees skew, on the incorrect side of the handler.
Overly large circles in slalom, spirals and walk arounds
Dog jumps up and down during an exercise
Not performing exercise consistently at the prescribed pace
Handler stops when not supposed to (ie, lost on course)
Handler touches the dog
Harsh reprimands by the handler
Dog refuses to attempt the jump(s) or goes past the jump(s) on the 2nd attempt (ie, on the retry of the exercise)

DISQUALIFICATION – The following are valid for disqualification

- Exceeding the course time (not applicable to Fun & Senior classes)
- Handler has treats, toys or other items on their person in a class other than Fun & Senior.
- Dog leaves the ring before completing the course.
- Harsh handling in the ring or on the show grounds.
- The dog is aggressive and bites or tries to bite a person or another dog (taking into account that if a dog from another discipline is loose and comes to the Rally area it will then not be the fault of the dog entered in the Rally event).

RALLY CLASSES - SUMMARIZED

For full detailed description please see Schedule 5(T)

FUN (non champ shows only) – to commence AFTER other rally classes (due to treats being permitted). Dog on lead, food, toy, praise & encouragement allowed.

Once a dog has qualified with 90% or higher, 10 (ten) times, they must move to the Novice class.

Test cards: 12 – 15 exercises in addition to the Start & Finish markers. Level 1 only.

Total points 100

SENIOR (non champ shows only) – all dogs over 8 years and dogs of any age who are movement compromised (without pain or discomfort). Dogs can be on lead or off lead (handlers' choice). Treats & toys are permitted. There is no limit to how many times the dog competes in senior and there is no qualifying percentage, only placings are issued.

Test cards: 12 – 18 exercises in addition to the Start & finish markers. Levels 1 to 4 to be used, split as follows: at least 3 from level 2, at least 3 from level 3 and 5 from level 4, plus 1 distraction exercise.

Total points 100

NOVICE (all shows) – first competitive class in Rally. On lead (or offlead at handlers' discretion, no extra points awarded for offlead). No food/treats/toy in the ring. Encouragement & praise is permitted. Cut off time of 4 (four) minutes is introduced, timing from Start to Finish marker. A dog qualifies by achieving 90% or higher and after a minimum of 3 (three) times and a maximum of 5 (five) times, the dog moves up to the Advanced class.

Test cards: 12 – 15 exercises in addition to the Start & Finish markers. Level 1 and 2 to be used, split as follows: at least 5 from level 2, the balance from level 1.

Total points 100

ADVANCED (all shows) – dogs may remain on lead at the handlers' discretion. It is the judges' discretion if they will deduct any points for onlead dogs, the judge will communicate this to the handlers prior to the start of the class. No food, treats or toys permitted in the ring. Encouragement and praise is permitted. A dog qualifies by achieving 90% or higher and after a minimum of 3 (three) times and a maximum of 5 (five) times, the dog moves up to the Excellent class.

Test cards: 14 – 16 exercises in addition to the Start & Finish markers. Level 1, 2 & 3 to be used, split as follows: at least 5 from Level 2 and at least 5 from level 3, the balance from level 1.

Total points 150

EXCELLENT (all shows) – Dogs work off lead from this class onwards. Leash to be removed either outside the ring or at the Start marker with the dog in the sit position. The handler may keep the lead on his/her person whilst on the course, or the lead may be placed outside the ring. Food, treats & toys are not permitted in the ring, however, encouragement and limited words of praise are permitted. A dog qualifies by achieving 90% or higher and after a minimum of 3 (three) times and a maximum of 5 (five) times, the dog moves up to the Master class.

Test cards: 15 – 17 exercises in addition to the Start & Finish markers. Levels 1 to 4 to be used, split as follows: at least 5 from level 2, 5 from level 3, a maximum of 4 from level 4, plus 1 distraction exercise.

Total points 150

MASTER (all shows) – See above re off lead in the ring, as well as removal of lead, the non use of food, treats & toys in the ring and encouragement and limited words of praise is permitted. A dog qualifies by

achieving 95% or higher, at 3 (three) Championship shows, under 3 (three) different judges. Once this is achieved, the dog is eligible for Championship status.

Test cards: 18 – 20 exercises in addition to the Start & Finish markers. Levels 1 to 4 to be used, split as follows: at least 3 from level 2, 3 from level 3, 5 from level 4 plus 1 distraction exercise.

Total points 200

GRAND MASTER (Champ shows only) – Once a dog has achieved 3 (three) QC's in the Master class, the team progress to the Grand Master class. All criteria for the Master class applies. After achieving 15 (fifteen) QC's at Championship shows, evenly issued under a minimum of 3 (three) different judges, or more, the dog qualifies for Grand Champion status.

Test cards: 18 – 20 exercises, in addition to the Start & finish markers. Levels 1 to 4 to be used, split as follows: at least 4 from level 2, 5 from level 3 and 8 from level 2 plus 1 distraction exercise.

Total points 200.

As the essence of Rally is to work together as a team and have fun whilst doing the exercises, 10% of the total points per class have been allocated for an OVERALL IMPRESSION mark that the judge may deduct from the total points if, for example, their impression is that the team were not connected or are not working together as a team. A complete disconnect between dog and handler and an uninterested dog are examples of this.

Overall Impression for Fun / Senior / Novice is 10 points (out of the 100 point total)

Overall Impression for Advanced & Excellent is 15 points (out of the 150 point total)

Overall Impression for Master & Grand Master is 20 points (out of the 200 point total)