

## **Changes to Rally Regulations for 2026**

The Royal Kennel Club has approved the following changes to the regulations for Rally.

The following amendment to the regulations increases the time frame between requesting a show licence to 6 months before the date of the show.

### **Amendment to regulations S7 & S9.a**

Regulation S7. Societies are required to apply for permission to hold Special Events.

#### **TO:**

Applications should be submitted to The Royal Kennel Club by email at least six ~~weeks~~ **months** before the start of any qualifying heats for the event.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)  
(Effective 1 January 2026)

Regulation S9.a. Application to Host a Rally competition.

#### **TO:**

a. The application to hold a competition must be submitted to the Secretary of The Royal Kennel Club and must be accompanied by the appropriate licence fee at least six ~~weeks~~ **months** before the proposed date of the competition.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)  
(Effective 1 January 2026)

The below amendment to the regulations removes the requirement to provide physical ring numbers.

### **Amendment to regulations S15(f) & S16(e)**

Regulation S15(f) Documentation

#### **TO:**

**(f) A list of ring numbers for each individual dog and handler team.**

(Insertions in bold. Subsequent items to be renumbered)  
(Effective 1 January 2026)

Regulation S16(e) Facilities and Equipment

#### **TO:**

~~(e) Ring numbers for dog and handler identification.~~

(Deletion struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

The below amendment to the regulations clarifies the definition of qualification certificates, while maintaining the ability for societies to award special awards.

#### Amendment to regulation S19

Regulation S19

**TO:**

- a. The host organisation shall provide printed awards to a minimum of fourth place in all classes.
- b. The host organisation shall also provide qualification certificates ~~and/or qualifying rosettes~~ to all dogs which receive a qualifying score **in standard classes at Open Rally competitions. The wording must clearly state the organising society or club, the date of the competition, the dog's Registered Royal Kennel Club name, the score gained and the judge's name and signature. The Certificate must state that it is a qualifying score. These certificates are proof of qualification which would be relied on in case of dispute for any future award.**
- c. Other rosettes and special awards may be offered at the discretion of the competition host, **these must be clearly stated in the Schedule.**
- d. In standard classes, rosettes and/or place cards may not be awarded to dogs that have received a non-qualifying score for any of the reasons listed in the non-qualifying scoring regulations.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

The following amendment to the regulations clarifies that an exercise starts as the handler approaches the exercise sign.

#### Amendment to regulation S(B)1(f)

Regulation S(B)1(f)

**TO:**

Unless specified in the exercise description, exercises ~~are executed~~ **start** as the handler approaches the sign

(Insertions in bold) (Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

The below amendment to the regulations allows competitors more room between signs, ensuring that the distance between exercises is a minimum of 2.5 metres.

### Amendment to regulation S(B)2(1)

Regulation S(B)2(1) Performance and Scoring Guidelines and Competition Management

**TO:**

2. Course Design.

(1) There ~~should~~ **must** be a minimum distance of 2.5 metres between exercises. **This minimum can be extended where space permits excluding changes of pace.**

(Insertions in bold) (Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

The following addition to the regulations is to permit Exercises 46 and Exercise 66 to be repeated within a course, which allows them to be used for both directions.

### Addition to Regulation S(B)2

Regulation S(B)2 Course design:

**TO:**

**(3) The angled recall and angled recall over jump exercises may each be used twice in a course to enable them to be laid in both directions, once to the left and once to the right.**

(Insertions in bold. Subsequent points to be renumbered)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

The below amendment to the regulations changes run offs to make them fairer for all competitors. In the case of a tie, timing will be replaced with a run off bonus exercise.

### Amendment to Regulation S(B)4.d

Regulation S(B)4.d

**TO:**

Tied scores for place awards - In the event that two or more dog/handler teams score an equal number of points, ~~the team(s) with the fastest recorded time(s) shall be placed above those with slower times. In the event that one or more such dog/handler teams have equal scores and equal times or where at least one of the competitors has not had a time recorded,~~ they shall be invited to participate in a run-off using **a Bonus exercise appropriate to the level. The run off bonus should be stated on the course plan submitted to the Secretary and/or the Chief Steward.**

(Insertions in bold. Deletions stuck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)