

KENNEL CLUB RALLY WORKING PARTY

REGULATIONS REVIEW

The Rally Working Party has over recent months undertaken a full review of the S regulations. This has included all elements of KC Rally taking into account personal observations, feedback received and issues raised over time. This review has now reached the stage of a more formal consultation stage of which this summary document forms an overview of the process.

Some regulation changes will be introduced from January 2018, but the majority are planned for January 2019 and are now open for consultation. This is to give time for everyone to prepare for and be aware of the amendments.

The accompanying annexes set out the changes in more detail.

Changes that will come into force in January 2018 and are not subject to consultation are as follows:

Capped Classes

Regulations, that mirror those already in place for Open Obedience Shows have been agreed for Open Rally Competitions. This will permit societies to host an Open Rally Competition, but to restrict class numbers where space does not permit unlimited entries. There is still a provision for Limited Rally competitions where the entry may be restricted to a single breed, distance from the event or perhaps members of a club.

See Annex 1, New Regulation S 5. Capped classes

Eligibility

Dogs apart from entering their eligible level, may now enter a total of 3 classes, not only the level above but a special class too. A dog can, if preferred, be entered only in a special class.

Progression

There is a clear distinction between Rally Level Titles and Excellent Titles. A dog will achieve either title before moving to the next level.

A dog will still achieve its Rally Level Excellent title and progress up to the next level by achieving three qualifying scores of 190 or above under three different judges.

Dogs will achieve their Rally Level Title and progress to the next level once it has achieved six qualifying scores under at least four different judges.

Minimum qualifying scores are set higher, at 175 for levels 1 to 4 and 180 for level 5.

This should ensure that dogs are not promoted too soon to the next level and provide more experience to both dog and handler at a level before they must progress to the next level.

See Annex 2, Levels, Classes and Eligibility

Key proposed changes for 2019 and which are subject to the current consultation are as follows:

Rally Levels

There will now be 6 distinct levels of competition, each with its own set of signs. As the levels progress signs are added to the list of those available to judges. Signs for each level are added to the total signs available. L2 will consist of all L1 and L2 signs, including Bonus exercises. L3 signs will consist of all L1, L2 and L3 signs including Bonus exercises. At any level a judge may use a Bonus exercise from that level or any of the lower levels. For example, at L3 a judge may use a Bonus exercise from L3, L2 or L1.

Rally signs

It has been felt for some time that the current allocation of exercise signs into 3 sets combining Levels 1&2, 3&4 and 5&6 did not properly serve the 6-level model.

In reviewing this allocation the Working Party, strove to promote progression in competitors skills by building on the complexity of foundation exercises as competitors move up the Levels. We felt that it was important for competitors to meet new challenges at each Level

The Working Party looked at exercise descriptions, rewriting any we felt were ambiguous, and to improve clarity ease of understanding propose move course design, performance and ring management information to S(B) PERFORMANCE AND SCORING GUIDELINES AND COMPETITION MANAGEMENT.

We have been receiving feedback for some time that some people find it difficult to differentiate between some of the signs. To improve the clarity of the signage we propose the following:

- We adopt a convention that existing, new and future signs state the Action followed by the Description (i.e. "Leave Dog (Call to Heel)" rather than "Call To Heel, Leave Dog")
- Symbols are introduced to indicate where the dog halts in a stand or a down
- Update the Call Front signs for both consistency and differentiation from turns
- Ensure that the signs are set to display the largest image possible when printed in A4, this will make them clearer for all and more accessible for the visually impaired.

A number of signs have been retired and removed.

- 1, 2, 3 steps, signs 27 & 42.
- Off set figure of eight (food bowls). Sign 31.
- Where two signs were required, the exercise has been amended to require just a single sign, for example where there was a finish left or finish right sign.

Some signs have been moved either to a higher or lower level.

- A number of exercises have been moved to more accurately reflect their difficulty.
- Jump exercises in particular are moved.

A number of new signs have been proposed.

- New distraction exercises. The distraction is either a toy and/or empty food bowl under a mesh cover. Distraction exercises increase in difficulty through the levels.
- An additional jump is introduced to assist preparation for the send over jump.

See Annex 3 EXERCISES AND SIGNS

Test Design

Criteria setting out the mix of signs a judge may use on their test has been simplified to reduce confusion and ambiguity.

The Working Party is looking for Rally rounds to flow more and for all breeds and sizes of dog to be able to complete a test with ease.

See Annex 4. COURSE DESIGN

Judges Qualifications

There are increased requirements that must be fulfilled by all new judges and for those judging higher levels for the first time. These being a person must now have acted as a scribe steward for two (instead of one) complete classes under two different judges. All existing judges will retain their current judging qualifications, but any who have yet to judge a higher level will be required to fulfil the new criteria.

The proposal on judges progression is as follows; Before judging a Level 1 or 2 class at an Open Rally competition a judge must have, handled a dog and achieved the level title for the level which he or she is judging. Must have acted as a scribe steward for a complete standard a judge's first ~~two~~ three appointments must be restricted to Level 1 or Level 2. The next two appointments may be at Level 3. Before judging Level 4 a judge must have undertaken two appointments at Level 3. Before a judge can judge Level 5 they must have undertaken two appointments at Level 4. Before judging Level 6 a judge must have carried out two appointments at Level 5. Judges must ensure that they have scribed at every level they intend to judge.

Point Scoring

The point allocation for some errors has been amended to reflect the considered severity of the error. There are now penalties allocated to faults not previously listed and thus left to the interpretation of the judge.

The reasons that might incur an NQ are reduced, thus more dogs will achieve a score on completing their test. This will give judges the chance to give credit for what is generally considered a good round, albeit with perhaps one or two more expensive errors.

See Annex 5. SCORING

Event Management

Minor increases have been proposed to the minimum ring size.

The information to be sent out to competitors by Rally organisers has been amended. Other minor changes are made to reflect current custom and practice.

In Summary

All those interested in Rally are encouraged to read and comment on these changes. The proposals for 2019 will be finalised at the next Working Party meeting in April 2018 and will be presented to the June Activities Committee and July board meetings. Final content cannot be confirmed until this process is complete.

Should you wish to submit a consultation response or have any questions or queries about this process please contact any of the working Party members either by phone or email, details below.

Consultation is open now and ends on **Tuesday 17 April 2018** please submit any responses before then.

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