



Quick Start to Rally

Contact us: info@rallydogs.com



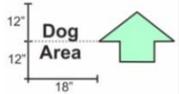
Are you new to Rally? Do you want to enter a [WCRL Trial](#) or try a [USDA@Home! Rally](#) event? The following Quick Start Guide provides an overview of the Rally program and rules.

Class Structure

Class	Focus	# of Exercise Signs	Eligibility
Intro	For beginning Rally teams or any team to perform a short course of basic Rally exercises	10	Dogs 6 months or older
Level 1	For beginning Rally teams or any team to demonstrate basic Rally exercises of heeling, sit, down, stand in heel position, stays, and front and finish.	14 – 16	Dogs 6 months or older
Level 2	For intermediate Rally teams to demonstrate control at a distance with stays and jumps.	16 – 18	Dogs 1 year or older
Level 3	For expert Rally teams to perform a wide array of exercises demonstrating skills such as heeling forward and in reverse, sit, down, stand in heel position, stays, distance position changes, and send and/or call dog over jump.	18 – 20	Dogs 1 year or older
Veteran	Designed to incorporate age-appropriate exercises from all 3 levels of Rally with an emphasis on moving exercises; course may include heeling; distance position changes; sit, down, stand in heel position; stays; and front and finish. Course has a maximum of 5 sits.	11 – 13	Dogs 8 years or older, or 7 years or older if dog weighs at least 50 pounds, or 6 years or older if dog weighs at least 90 pounds

Performance Rules and Concepts

Collars & Leashes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collars allowed include a standard collar (buckle, snap, or Martingale collar) or body harness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Choke chains, slip collars, prong collars, head halters, “no-pull” harnesses (harnesses that tighten if dog pulls), one-piece collar/leash or slip leashes, and all-metal leashes and collars are prohibited. • When performing a course on-leash, the leash shall be held so that there is no tension on the dog’s collar; there should be no steering or pulling of your dog with the leash. The leash may be held in one or both hands, and hand position may change during the course. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each instance of a tight leash is penalized.
Course Diagram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team must perform each exercise in the order indicated by the station numbers on the course map. • Performing an exercise out of sequence or skipping an entire exercise will result in the round scored zero.
Course Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timing and scoring of the course begins when the team passes the Start sign, and ends when passing the Finish sign.
Cues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cues are visual or auditory signals given by the handler to communicate to the dog to perform a specific exercise or element of the course. • An Additional Cue is any additional communication given after the dog does not respond to a cue, or to re-initiate after ceasing to perform. Each Additional Cue is penalized. • Significant hesitation is a period of time (approximately 4-5 seconds) during which the dog does not begin to perform following a cue.

Exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercises have Primary and Secondary Elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Primary Element is the principal purpose of the exercise; if not performed or if performed incorrectly, a Primary Element penalty applies. Secondary Elements are elements of an exercise, other than the Primary Element, described in the exercise requirements; for each Secondary Element performed incorrectly, penalties of 1, 2, or 3 points (see Scoring Deductions Chart) will apply. Exercises are one of two types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stationary exercises conclude with a stationary position; they may include moving elements. Moving exercises conclude an action element; they may include stationary elements but do not conclude with a stationary element.
Food & Touch Rewards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One distinguishing facet of WCRL is that it allows food and touch rewards at all levels! Rewards may be given following the conclusion of any stationary exercise and before moving forward on the course to the next exercise, except when performing shared stations, in which the reward may only be given at the conclusion of the final stationary exercise of a shared station. (Stationary exercises [see Exercises above] are indicated in the legend of each course map.) Touching or feeding the dog at any other time during the course will result in the round scored zero. For titling, the following rules apply to the use of food and touch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handler may not use food or touch to lure or entice the dog to perform the desired behavior. Food must be concealed in the handler's pocket, and not reached for, until it is allowed to be used. Treat pouches/fanny packs are not allowed on the course.
Heel Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog should be in heel position at all times unless otherwise required by an exercise. Heel position is on the handler's left side, generally no more than 18" from handler's left side, with the dog's shoulders generally no more than 12" forward of or behind the handler's left side. Heeling penalties shall apply for lagging, forging, bumping, and heeling wide. 
Luring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luring is defined as enticing a dog to perform a specific behavior through the use of food, or using a hand to simulate a luring gesture, or to provide continuous guidance throughout a significant portion of an exercise. No treat need be present. Carrying food in your mouth or hand during the performance is also considered luring. Luring results in the round scored zero.
Retrying an Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A team may retry any exercise, provided the team has not begun performing the next station. To retry, the team must repeat the approach to the exercise from a few feet and perform the entire exercise. When an exercise is retried, point deductions for that exercise are erased and a Retry penalty is assessed for each retry. No more than two retries may be attempted per regular exercise.
Shared Stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared Stations are where two or more exercise signs are presented and which share a common stationary position. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If exercise 112 (Halt, Sit, Down, Sit) is shared with exercise 106 (Halt, Sit, Walk Around), the handler may "share" the Sit at the end of exercise 112 with the Sit at the start of exercise 106, rather than having the dog sit both times. If exercise 118 (Call Front, Finish Left) is shared with exercise 208A (Halt, Leave Dog), the handler may "share" the Sit at the end of exercise 118 with the Sit at the start of exercise 208A, rather than having the dog sit both times. When performing shared stations, a reward may only be given at the conclusion of the final stationary exercise of a shared station; rewarding for the shared element will result in the round scored zero. Handlers have the option to separate shared stations by taking a couple of steps (so the judge knows you are separating them). The steps may be in any direction, depending on which is best for the course layout and next exercise.
Talking to Your Dog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Praise (visual and auditory) indicating approval of your dog's performance is allowed at any time and is not considered an Additional Cue.

Scoring

The following Chart shows the possible deductions that may occur in a course performance.

SCORING DEDUCTIONS CHART			
Notes: A maximum of 10 points may be deducted for each exercise sign, even if more than 10 points in deductions are accrued on that sign. Scoring deductions apply anytime during the course, including during the performance of exercises.			
1 Point Deductions	2 Point Deductions	3 Point Deductions	5 Point Deductions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crooked sit, stand, down, or front—each 30° • Not moving in unison with handler • Out of place sit, stand, down, or front, including moving partially out of place • Significant hesitation or anticipation of a cue • Barking episode • Heeling faults—bumping, forging, lagging, wide • Jumping on handler • Tight leash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handler’s or dog’s failure to perform an exercise as described, other than a Primary Element • Moving out of place—more than 50% of footprint • Adapting pace • Additional cue • Displacing or splitting a sign • Handler dropping the leash • Handler dropping food • Sit, down, or stand when not required, including sit or down while heeling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retry of an exercise or shared station • Temporary loss of control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorrect performance of a Primary Element of an exercise
Elimination (E) – round scored 0			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceeding maximum course time • Failure to demonstrate the ability to heel between the majority of exercises • Inappropriate or undesirable behavior initiated by dog, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acts of aggression ○ Exhibits illness or pain ○ Defecates or urinates ○ Loss of control (other than a temporary loss) for a significant period of time, where handler is unable to recall the dog by voice or hand cues to resume performance and must physically retrieve the dog • Luring or improper rewarding during course performance 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Omission of an exercise on course (other than bonus) ○ Out of sequence performance of an exercise • Poor sportsmanship, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Being abusive to a dog (including a harsh physical or auditory correction) ○ Disruptive behavior on the premises ○ Intentional leash corrections or use of leash to force dog into a position ○ Showing disrespect for others • Touching a dog to prompt an exercise • Use of any collar or training aid during course performance other than those listed in the Official Regulations 	

Titles

“A” and “B” class

Dogs who have not yet earned the base title for a level (i.e., RL1, RL2, RL3, RLV) are in the “A” class. The “B” class is for dogs that have completed the base title for that level. There is no separation of Intro class into A and B classes.

Base Titles

Base Titles		Requirements
RLI	Rally Intro	3 Q’s (qualifying scores) of 170 or better, earned under two different Judges in Level “A” class. An “Award of Excellence” designation shall be appended to the title when the first three scores (includes numeric scores, NQs, and Es) are 190 or higher.
RL1	Rally Level 1	
RL2	Rally Level 2	
RL3	Rally Level 3	
RLV	Rally Veteran	

Championship Titles

Once a team has earned a class title in Levels 1, 2, 3, or Veteran, they may continue to compete at that level in the “B” class for the following championship titles:

Championship Titles		Requirements
RL1X	Rally Level 1 Championship	Each additional 10 Qs (qualifying scores) of 170 or better, earned in the Level “B” class
RL2X	Rally Level 2 Championship	
RL3X	Rally Level 3 Championship	
RLVX	Rally Veteran Championship	Each additional 5 Qs (qualifying scores) of 170 or better, earned in Level “B” class.

Championship Titles

Combined-Level Championship titles are earned by competing in two or more levels (from Levels 1, 2, or 3) in the same trial. Combined-Level Championship titles are earned concurrently with Championship titles for Levels 1, 2, & 3.

Combined-Level Championship titles must be earned sequentially, starting with the All Rally Champion (ARCH) title as listed in the following table:

Combined-Level Championship Titles		Eligibility	Requirement(s)
ARCH	All Rally Champion	RL1 RL2	100 points* from the “B” classes in Levels 1 and 2, with at least 30 points from each level 5 QQs of 190 or higher in Levels 1 and 2
ARCHX	All Rally Champion Excellent	ARCH	5 QQs of 195 or higher in Levels 1 and 2
ARCHEX	All Rally Champion Extraordinaire	ARCHX RL3	10 QQs of 195 or higher in Levels 2 and 3
ARCHMX	All Rally Master Champion	ARCHEX	10 QQQs of 195 or higher in Levels 1, 2, and 3

*ARCH Points are earned per the following table:

Score	Points Earned						
191	1	196	6	201	11	206	16
192	2	197	7	202	12	207	17
193	3	198	8	203	13	208	18
194	4	199	9	204	14	209	19
195	5	200	10	205	15	210	20

Learn More About Rally

- Links to all [Rally Exercise Videos](#) (short clips of each exercise being performed and videos with scoring explanations)
- Free [Rally Primer Guide](#) to get started with basic Rally skills, practice sequences, and other tips
- Interested in USDAA@Home! events? See the [@Home! General Rules](#) or visit <https://www.usdaa.com/athome/>
- See the [WCRL Official Rules and Guidelines](#) for details:
 - Eligibility – Chapter 1
 - Class Structure – Chapter 2
 - Performance Rules – Chapter 3
 - Scoring Standards – Chapter 4
 - Exercise Descriptions – Chapters 5-7
 - Titles – Chapter 8