

# JRTCA Rally Rulebook

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to provide a uniform, fair set of rally trial rules that are proprietary to the JRTCA and not governed by or subject to changes and/or amendments by an unaffiliated/outside obedience venue. These rules shall clarify all exercises for competitors and judges, and provide a class breakdown for trial premiums.

In order to allow for speedy judging and to accommodate the specific characteristics of JRTCA trials with all the various activities going on throughout the day, the exercises allow for a self-contained ring performance of each individual dog/handler team.

## **What is Rally Obedience?**

Rally Obedience is a fun and exciting team sport for dogs and their handlers in which teams navigate a course with numbered signs indicating different behaviors to perform, such as sit-down-sit, come, weave through cones, and send over a jump. Different from traditional obedience, in Rally you can talk to your dog throughout the course. Plus, there are many different possible exercises and bonus exercises arranged in a new order for every course, so there is variety and challenge in each experience.

# 1. General Rules and Regulations

The following rules apply to Rally classes at sanctioned JRTCA trials.

## 1.1. Eligibility

- Any terrier one year and older may be entered. (dogs 6 months or older)
- Females in heat are not allowed to compete.
- Dogs with disabilities are allowed to compete, provided they are not in pain.
- Dogs with bandages, stitches or open sores/wounds are not allowed to compete.
- Dogs who are obviously lame and not moving soundly are not allowed to compete

## 1.2. Ring Size

Rings should be approximately 40 feet x 50 feet no larger than 50 x 80.

## 1.3. Equipment

Rings must be enclosed with ring gates, snow fencing, or be otherwise enclosed (e.g. indoors) to provide a safe environment from which terriers cannot escape.

Trial hosts must provide all Rally signs, jumps, and other equipment necessary to properly host a trial. Or make sure they are provided by the judge or committee.

# 2. Judging Guidelines

Consistent judging is critical. Judges are expected to have full understanding of all Rally exercises and judging guidelines. As with any dog sport, there may be areas of interpretation and judges are required to make those interpretations fairly and consistently.

Exhibitors are also expected to be familiar with all Rally exercises and judging guidelines. Judges may, but are not required to, discuss an exhibitor's scoring after their class has finished. Judges are not to enter into any discussions with an angry or argumentative exhibitor. If an exhibitor feels that his/her performance was not scored fairly, they may file a complaint with the Trial Chair.

## 2.1. Scores and Qualifying Performance

After the last exercise has been performed, and the score sheet completed and signed, the judge shall inform each team whether their performance was qualifying or non-qualifying.

Each team enters the ring with a perfect score of 200 and may add up to 10 points from a correctly performed Bonus exercise. As errors are made, deductions are noted on the score sheet. A final score of 170 or better is considered a qualifying performance. Unlike in Obedience, half point deductions will not be made. Any faults in traditional Obedience that would be evaluated and scored as a one-point deduction or more should be scored the same in Rally.

Dogs who exhibit fear or aggressiveness; eliminate or become ill in the ring will not receive a qualifying score. Handlers who discipline their dogs while in the ring will be excused. A judge will not require a handler or dog to do anything not outlined in this rulebook nor will a judge penalize a handler or dog for anything not outlined herein.

## JRTCA Rally Rulebook

### 2.2. Judge's Instructions

- Before beginning each exercise, the judge will ask the handler "Are You Ready?"
- Once the handler has indicated she/he is ready, the judge will instruct the handler "Forward" for all exercises that begin with heeling. For other exercises, the judge's first instructions are noted in the exercise description.
- Judging begins once the handler has indicated he/she is ready.
- When the team has completed all features of an exercise, the judge will say "Exercise Finished" and judging for that exercise is complete.

### 2.3. Jump Heights

All dogs will jump 8"

Dogs in double digits (10 and older) have the option to jump 4"

### 2.4. Jump Construction

- The bar jump will consist of any jump with a 4' bar. The bar will be supported by two unconnected 4 foot upright posts approximately 4 - 5 feet apart. The posts must be adjustable for each two inches of height. For safety, the jump must be built so that the bar may be knocked over without affecting the uprights.

### 2.5. Interference and Double Handling

Exhibitors and spectators are not allowed to interfere or assist in any way with a team that is working in the ring. Instances of interference and/or double handling will result in the working team's performance being judged as non-qualifying if the assistance is perceived to assist the team. Exhibitors who are found to be interfering with a working team's performance will be asked to leave the grounds and receive a non-qualifying score for the day. Any involved spectators will be asked to leave the grounds as well.

### 2.6. Unusual Conditions

If, during a team's performance in the ring, an unusual condition arises that could negatively affect the team's performance, the judge may have the team re-run the course.

### 2.7. Ties

Ties are first broken by point score. In the case of tied scores, the dog completing the course in the least amount of time will receive the higher placement. In the event that both the score and time are the same, the dogs will run the first 7 stations of that class and will be scored and timed again. This is for determining placements only, the original scores will not be changed.

## JRTCA Rally Rulebook

### 2.8. Score sheets

Since Rally courses differ greatly from trial to trial, there is no uniform, standard score sheet provided by JRTCA. Judges design their own courses according to the guidelines outlined under section 5. below. They may supply their own copies and seek reimbursement from the trial host, or submit the originals in advance so copies can be made available at the trial.

The judge will determine the number of points deducted from each team's performance immediately after the team completes their performance and before the next dog enters the ring. Before determining placements the judge must double check to ensure scores were calculated properly. The judge must clearly mark each score sheet as a qualifying or non-qualifying score and sign it. Since JRTCA Rally competitors are responsible for their own paperwork to submit for certificates, they will obtain their score sheet from the judge or a steward at the conclusion of the trial.

### 2.9. Physically Challenged Handlers and Dogs

Dogs and/or handlers with disabilities are allowed to compete, provided the dog does not appear to be in pain. The judge has the right to refuse entry into the ring if a dog appears to be in pain. The judge will excuse from the ring any dog that becomes lame during any of the exercises.

A handler may submit an Exercise Modification Form if they require an exercise to be modified to accommodate the handler or the dog's disability. The form must be submitted to the judge for approval before the class begins and, if approved, is to be attached to the team's worksheet. Judges have full discretion to approve or deny any exercise modification request. Judges may deny an exercise modification request if, in the judge's opinion, the modification does not reflect the principal features of an exercise.

An example of an appropriate Exercise Modification request is to lower the jump for a dog that has previously had torn cruciate ligament surgery. In the interest of safety, this is a proactive request. An example of an inappropriate Exercise Modification request is to request additional time to complete the course if a dog has arthritis and moves slowly. The latter is a blanket request for leniency in judging, and not a request to modify an exercise.

### 2.10. Judging Order

Exhibitors shall check in with the judge or a desk steward to be sure their entry and score sheet is correct. Although accommodations shall be made within reason for dogs to be judged throughout the trial day's time frame posted in the agenda, judges are not required to delay judging for any dog that is not presented at the ring in a timely manner. If there is a conflict with an entry in another class, the handler must inform the judge or a desk steward at check-in. Absent dogs will not be permitted to run after judging has officially concluded for the day. No entry fees will be refunded in this instance.

### 2.11. Leash

All dogs must be kept on leash except when in the Rally ring, warm-up or exercise area. Dogs must be on leash when brought into the ring and when leaving the ring. The leash must be made of fabric or leather and not exceed 6 ft in length. It may be shorter, but must be long enough to provide adequate slack when held. Slip leads (e.g. racing leads, leashes with choke collar as a part of the leash) are not permitted, nor are conformation-type slip leads or Flexi type leashes.

### 2.12. Collars

Collars may be flat, buckle type collars or limited slip martingale type collars. No choke collars, head collars, prong collars or electronic collars are allowed. Body harnesses are also allowed, but a dog may only wear either a collar or harness, not both. Equipment must be properly fitted and while they may have tags on them, the tags must not interfere with the dog's movement. Dogs may not have decorative items around their neck nor on their collars.

## JRTCA Rally Rulebook

### 2.13. Heel Position

The dog is considered in heel position when the dog is on the handler's left side, both dog and handler are facing the same direction, and the handler can reach out and touch the dog's head.

### 2.14. Hand Position

In classes that are performed on leash, the leash should be held so that there is no tension on the dog's collar or harness when in heel position. It may be held in one or both hands. Hand position may change during the course.

### 2.15. Cues

Commands/cues may be spoken or signaled. If both are used and given simultaneously they are considered a single cue. Additional cues are defined as any cue that prompts the dog to perform when the dog is not complying.

### 2.16. Praise and Encouragement

Handlers are encouraged to communicate with their dogs throughout the course. Praise and encouragement are not considered cues.

### 2.17. Food Rewards

- Food and touch rewards are allowed when the team has completed a Stationary exercise (exercise descriptions note if an exercise is considered Stationary) and before the team has begun to heel forward towards the next exercise.
- An exercise is considered complete when the last element of an exercise has been performed and the team has not yet begun to move forward. In instances where Stationary exercises are "married" or share a common sit, rewards may be given at the completion of any of the included Stationary exercises.
- Dogs must maintain their stationary position while being given the reward. Delivery of rewards should not significantly interrupt the flow of the performance.
- Handlers may not lure a dog with food nor pretend to have food in their hand. Food rewards are to be kept hidden in the handler's pocket only. No bait bags, fanny pouches, etc. are allowed and handlers may not have food in their mouths.
- Handlers must use food that can easily and quickly be swallowed by the dog and may not use food rewards that might create crumbs while the dog is swallowing it.
- A 5 point deduction will be taken in the event the handler or dog drops the food on the ring surface.
- Handlers who lure or appear to lure a dog will receive a non-qualifying score.
- Handlers may not enter the ring with food in their hand. This should be considered luring and the team will receive a non-qualifying score.

### 2.18. Luring

Luring is the appearance of having a reward in hand and/or leading the dog with an extended hand or finger for an extended period of time. An example of this is holding the thumb and first two fingers together as if holding a treat. No treat need be present. Handlers who appear to be luring and/or lure their dogs will receive a non-qualifying score.

### 2.19. Misbehavior

Any dog who exhibits fear, nervousness or timidity or any uncontrolled behavior such as snapping, excessive barking or running away from the handler will be penalized, to the maximum penalty of receiving a non-qualifying score. If a dog leaves the ring during the performance and the handler is successful in calling the dog back, a 5

## JRTCA Rally Rulebook

point deduction must be taken. If the dog does not return on its own, the team will receive a non-qualifying score. A dog that eliminates or becomes ill in the ring will receive a non-qualifying score and be excused from the ring. Handlers who deliver harsh corrections inside and/or outside the ring will be excused and receive a non-qualifying score

### **2.20. Exhibitor Requests to be Excused**

The judge should honor any exhibitor's request to be excused from the ring and should note this on the score sheet.

## **3. Performance Guidelines**

### **3.1. Performing Exercises**

The handler should perform all exercises within approximately 2 to 4 feet of the exercise sign.

### **3.2. Retries**

Retries are allowed if the team has not started performing the next exercise on the course. When an exercise is retried, all previous point deductions for that exercise are erased; however, the team will be issued a 3 point deduction per each retry. An exercise may be retried a maximum of 3 times. Some exercises may not be retried. (See "Non-Qualifying" in the Scoring Guidelines below.)

### **3.3. Sign Placement**

Signs must be placed so that they are on the handler's right with the following exceptions:

- Turns and pivots may be placed directly in the handler's path.
- Exercises # 26 Spiral Left, # 29 Straight Figure 8, # 30 Serpentine, # 31 Off-Set Figure 8, and # 43 Send Over Jumps - Handler Runs By signs are placed so that they are on the handler's left.
- When halts and pivots are combined, it may be necessary to place a sign so that it is on the handler's left. Judges shall make handlers aware of this during the Judge's briefing.
- In some circumstances due to space constraints or safety issues, a sign may be placed in a position other than the handler's right. Judges shall make handlers aware of this during the Judge's briefing.

### **3.4. Multiple Sign Stations**

Multiple sign stations are designed to share a stationary element (e.g. # 1 HALT - Sit and # 3 HALT - Sit - Down). The team may choose to perform the shared element (Sit) once or may move forward after completing the first sign to perform the second sign separately.

### **3.5. Walk-Throughs and Course Maps**

Exhibitors are provided with a sufficient period prior to their performance during which to walk the course (without dogs) and ask the Judge questions. Walk-throughs are for entered exhibitors only. Junior handlers may have a parent accompany them. Disabled handlers may have a helper assist them at the discretion of the Judge.

Once judges arrive in the morning, they must make course maps for all classes available to competitors by either posting them ringside for review, or by providing copies to be handed out. Copies may be the same as score sheet blanks.

## JRTCA Rally Rulebook

### 3.6. Course Time

Times will be entered to the 1/100 of a second on all runs. Rally I and II have a maximum course time of 4 minutes. There is no maximum course time for a Senior class (dogs 9 years and older, same course as Rally I), should a club opt to offer this class.

In the event of a timing malfunction, the timer will notify the judge immediately after the dog and handler have finished running the course.

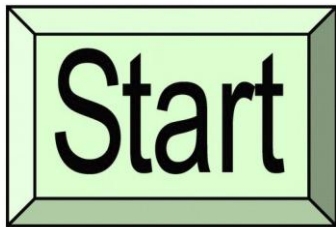
If the team's performance was a qualifying score by points, the judge shall offer the handler the following options:

Option 1 - The ability to run the course again for time. The team's original score will not change, but if the performance is over time, it is considered non qualifying.

Option 2 - The handler may decline to rerun the course and the judge records the maximum course time of 4 minutes respectively.

If the team's performance was not a qualifying score by points, the course time is irrelevant and no re-run is necessary.

### 3.7. Start



March 2010

Judging begins when the team enters the ring. The judge will ask the handler "Are You Ready?", and once the handler has indicated she/he is ready, the judge will instruct the handler "Forward". From this point on the team will navigate the course at its own pace and without further instruction from the judge.

Timing will begin when the team crosses the start line. The dog does not have to be sitting in heel position to begin the course. Teams should cross the start line at their normal heeling pace.

### 3.8. Finish



March 2010

Timing concludes as the team crosses the finish line. Judging ends when the team leaves the ring (after the Bonus exercise, should they opt to perform it.)

### 3.9 Bonus Exercise

The Bonus exercise is optional and is performed after the team crosses the finish line and timing stops. Teams may earn up to ten additional points for the Bonus performance. There is one Bonus exercise on each course. The Bonus is scored the same as other exercises; while repeat cues are permitted, there are no retries of the Bonus exercise.

## JRTCA Rally Rulebook

### 3.10. Scoring Guidelines

Each team enters the ring with a perfect score of 200 points. Deductions are taken based on the exercise requirements and the scoring guidelines. Deductions are taken in 1 point increments from a minimum of a 1 point up to a 10 point deduction. The Judge indicates point deductions on the score sheet as faults occur on the course.

#### 3.10.1. 1 Point Deduction

- Tight leash (1 point per occurrence)
- Jumping on handler (1 point per occurrence)
- Ticking a jump
- Performing an exercise with the sign on the wrong side
- Out of position sits, downs, fronts, stands (handler must be able to touch dog)
- Heeling faults - lagging, forging, bumping, wide
- Overly large circles in 270's and 360's exercises
- Dog changing stationary position during food or touch rewards

#### 3.10.2. 1 or More Point Deduction Depending on the Severity of the Error

- Slight movement during Stand exercises (1 point per paw)
- Barking

#### 3.10.3. 3 Point Deduction

- Each retry is scored as a 3 point deduction; any deductions previously taken for that exercise will be erased with the retry
- Additional commands/cues or prompts when dog is failing to perform (3 points per occurrence)
- Dropping the leash (Level 1 and Puppy)
- Failure of the dog to move with handler as specified in exercise description
- Handler stepping inside 6 foot line when sending dog over jump in # 43 Send Over Jumps - Handler Runs By
- Sniffing a food bowl (3 points per occurrence)
- Knocking over a cone or exercise sign
- Splitting a cone, i.e. dog and handler pass on opposite sides of a cone

#### 3.10.4. 5 Point Deduction

- Failure to sit, down, or stand, with the following exceptions (Also see Non-Qualifying):
  - # 1 HALT - Sit
  - # 45 Moving Down - Forward
- Extra sit, down, or stand when not specified in exercise description
- Failure to perform a finish as indicated in exercise description
- Failure of handler to pivot
- Handler is in front of jump/uprights when sending dog over in # 43 Send Over Jumps - Handler Runs By
- Performing an obstacle exercise backwards or in the wrong direction
- Performing a turn in the wrong direction
- Failure to change pace
- Not performing all of an exercise.
- Dropping food
- Dog leaves the ring but returns to handler immediately upon being recalled. In other words, if the dog briefly breaks the plane of ring entrance or exit with one or more paws, but it is apparent that the dog is still actively working with the handler and immediately returns to handler upon recall, a 5 point deduction is taken. (Also see Non-Qualifying.)



## JRTCA Rally Rulebook

### 3.10.5. Non-Qualifying (NQ)

The following exercises may be retried as per the Retries guidelines, but if after retrying, the dog still has not successfully completed the exercise, it will result in an NQ:

- Failure of dog to “Sit” in # 1 HALT - Sit (Also see 5 Point Deduction.)
- Failure of dog to maintain “Stay” in the following exercises:
  - # 5 HALT - Sit - Walk Around
  - #6 HALT - Sit - Down - Walk Around

### 3.11. The following exercises may NOT be retried:

- Dog refuses any jump and passes jump uprights, uses jump as aid in going over, knocks bar off, or knocks jump over - This is scored as an immediate NQ
- Dog advances forward on Level 2 recall exercises before being called - This is scored as an immediate NQ

### 3.12. The following situations will result in an NQ:

- Deductions of ten or more points at the completion of any individual exercise
- Dog fully exits the ring and is no longer actively working with handler, and/or dog does not return immediately upon recall if dog steps out of ring (Also see 5 Point Deduction.)
- Dog eliminates in the ring, or becomes ill in the ring
- Consistently tight leash
- Unmanageable behavior
- Exceeding course time
- Appearance of luring
- Handler misses an exercise or performs an exercise out of sequence (off course)
- Handler touches dog to prompt an exercise (unless specifically allowed in exercise description)
- Food reward given before exercise is completed
- Food reward is given while moving towards an exercise sign

## 4. Rally classes and individual exercises

### 4.1. Classes and Eligibility

There is no requirement in JRTCA that a dog must progress from Companion Rally to Rally I to Rally II, earning three qualifying scores in a class before being permitted to enter the next higher one. Dogs may be entered in any class for which they are eligible, except where cross entering is not permitted.

#### 4.1.1. Companion Rally (Rally 1 “A”)

This class is for the companion terrier who has little or no formal Rally training.

A true beginner class, performed on lead. Same course as Rally I.

- May not cross-enter into any other Rally class.
- Eligible for a Companion Rally Certificate upon completion of 3 qualifying scores.

#### 4.1.2A. Rally I

This class is open to all terriers. Performed on-lead. Course consisting of only Level 1 exercises 14-18 exercises.

- May cross-enter into Rally II and Senior Rally.
- Eligible for a Rally I Certificate upon completion of 3 qualifying scores.

## JRTCA Rally Rulebook

### **4.1.3A. Rally II**

This class is open to all terriers. This Class is performed off lead class. It consists of 18-21 exercises

- May cross-enter into Rally I and Senior Rally
- Eligible for a Rally II Certificate upon completion of 3 qualifying scores.

### **4.1.4. Senior Rally**

Open to any terrier 9 years or older. Performed on-lead. Uses the same course as Rally I.

Eligible for Senior Rally Certificate upon completion of 3 qualifying scores

→

## **4.2. Placements**

Qualifying scores shall be considered first for placements, in descending order. If there are no qualifying scores, or fewer than seven entries per class, non-qualifying scores shall be considered to fill the remaining placements.

## **4.3. Rally Trial Championship and Reserve**

The dogs with the two highest combined scores from the Rally I or Senior Rally + Rally II classes will be Rally Obedience Trial Champion and Reserve. Ties shall be broken as outlined in the "Ties" section of this document.

Time will be the tiebreaker

## 4.4.a Rally I and Companion/Senior Rally Description

A Level 1 course consists of 14 - 18 exercise signs (not counting the Start, Finish, and Bonus exercise signs.)

Level 1 is performed on leash. The leash should be held so that there is no tension on the dog's collar when in heel position. It may be held in one or both hands. Hand position may change during the course.

The handler should perform all exercises within approximately 2 to 4 feet of the exercise sign.

Refer to "General Information" and "Performance Guidelines" in the Rules and Guidelines for general rules and scoring.

Refer to "Rally Course Design Guidelines" below for details on Rally I course design requirements.

### Rally I Exercises



#### 1. HALT - Sit

The handler halts, and the dog will sit in heel position. The sit may be automatic or cued. Once the dog is sitting the team may proceed.

STATIONARY EXERCISE



#### 2. HALT - Sit - Stand

The handler halts, and the dog will sit in heel position. The sit may be automatic or cued. Once the dog is sitting the handler cues the dog to stand. The handler may leave heel position to "stack" or pose the dog as in conformation competition. The handler may touch the dog to help position the stand. The handler may not physically force the dog to stand. Once the dog is standing and the handler has returned to heel position the team may proceed.

STATIONARY EXERCISE



#### 3. HALT - Sit - Down

The handler halts, and the dog will sit in heel position. The sit may be automatic or cued. Once the dog is sitting the handler cues the dog to lie down. Once the dog is down the team may proceed.

STATIONARY EXERCISE



#### 4. HALT - Sit - Down - Sit

The handler halts, and the dog will sit in heel position. The sit may be automatic or cued. Once the dog is sitting the handler cues the dog to lie down. Once the dog is down the handler cues the dog sit. Once the dog is sitting the team may proceed.

STATIONARY EXERCISE

## JRTCA Rally Rulebook



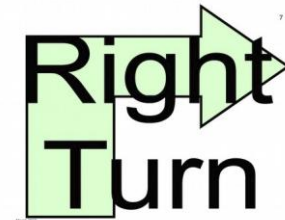
### 5. HALT - Sit - Walk Around

The handler halts, and the dog will sit in heel position. The sit may be automatic or cued. Once the dog is sitting the handler cues the dog to stay and walks counterclockwise around the dog returning to heel position. The handler may pause or immediately heel forward from the sit. The dog must remain in the sitting position once the stay cue has been given until the handler proceeds at heel. STATIONARY EXERCISE



### 6. HALT - Sit - Down - Walk Around

The handler halts, and the dog will sit in heel position. The sit may be automatic or cued. Once the dog is sitting the handler cues the dog to lie down. Once the dog is down the handler cues the dog to stay and walks counterclockwise around the dog returning to heel position. The handler may pause or immediately heel forward from the down. The dog must remain in the down position once the stay cue has been given until the handler proceeds at heel. STATIONARY EXERCISE



### 7. Right Turn

The team performs a 90° turn to the right. MOVING EXERCISE



### 8. Left Turn

The team performs a 90° turn to the left. MOVING EXERCISE



### 9. About Turn - Right

The team performs a 180° turn to the right. MOVING EXERCISE



### 10. About "U" Turn

The team performs a 180° turn to the left. MOVING EXERCISE

## JRTCA Rally Rulebook



### 11. 270° Right (Turn)

The team performs a 270° turn that begins to the handler's right.  
MOVING EXERCISE



### 12. 270° Left (Turn)

The team performs a 270° turn that begins to the handler's left.  
MOVING EXERCISE



### 13. 360° Right (Turn)

The team performs a 360° turn to the right. The circle should be roughly the size of a hula hoop.  
MOVING EXERCISE



### 14. 360° Left (Turn)

The team performs a 360° turn to the left.  
The circle should be roughly the size of a hula hoop.  
MOVING EXERCISE



### 15. Call (Dog) Front - Forward Right

The handler stops his/her forward motion and calls the dog to sit at front. The handler may take three to four steps backward while calling the dog to front. Once the dog is sitting the handler will cue the dog to perform the Forward Right. The handler will cue the dog to circle the handler clockwise, going behind the handler's back and proceeding to the handler's left side. The team will proceed forward as the dog comes into position at the handler's left. The dog does not sit in heel position. The handler's feet should remain still while the dog is circling.  
MOVING EXERCISE



### 16. Call (Dog) Front - Forward Left

The handler stops his/her forward motion and calls the dog to sit at front. The handler may take three to four steps backward while calling the dog front. Once the dog is sitting the handler will cue the dog to perform the Forward Left. The handler will cue the dog to move to handler's left side, turn and face forward. The team will proceed forward as the dog comes into position at the handler's left. The dog does not sit in heel position. The handler's feet should remain still while the dog is moving.  
MOVING EXERCISE



**17. Call (Dog) Front - Finish Right**

The handler stops his/her forward motion and calls the dog to sit at front. The handler may take three to four steps backward while calling the dog front. Once the dog is sitting the dog will perform the Finish Right. The handler will cue the dog to circle the handler clockwise proceeding to the handler's left side. The dog will then sit in heel position. Once the dog is sitting the team may proceed. The sits may be automatic or cued. The handler's feet should remain still while the dog is performing the Finish. STATIONARY EXERCISE



**18. Call (Dog) Front - Finish Left**

The handler stops his/her forward motion and calls the dog to sit at front. The handler may take three to four steps backward while calling the dog front. Once the dog is sitting the dog will perform the Finish Left. The handler will cue the dog to move to handler's left side, turn, face forward and sit in heel position. Once the dog is sitting the team may proceed. The sits may be automatic or cued. The handler's feet should remain still while the dog is performing the finish. STATIONARY EXERCISE



**19. Slow Pace**

The team decreases its speed so that there is a noticeable difference from the team's normal pace. The slow pace should begin at the Slow Pace sign and be maintained until the team reaches the Normal sign. MOVING EXERCISE



**20. Fast Pace**

The team increases its speed so that there is a noticeable difference from the team's normal pace. The pace should be fast enough that the dog at least breaks into a trot. The fast pace should begin at the Fast Pace sign and be maintained until the team reaches the Normal sign. MOVING EXERCISE



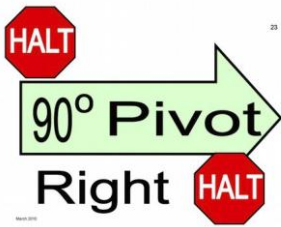
**21. Normal Pace**

The team resumes its normal pace. MOVING EXERCISE  
(This exercise does not count as a separate station!)



**22. Moving Side Step Right**

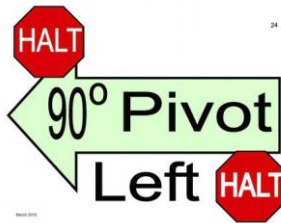
The handler takes one diagonal step with the right foot, forward and to the right. The handler then steps with the left foot, also forward and to the right, along the newly established line. The dog must move with the handler. The dog is not required to actually side step. MOVING EXERCISE



**23. HALT - 90° Pivot Right - HALT**

The handler halts and the dog will sit in heel position. Once the dog is sitting, the handler will pivot 90° to the right cuing the dog to move simultaneously and sit in heel position at the completion of the handler's pivot. The sits may be automatic or cued. The handler should perform the pivot in a space roughly the size of a paper plate. Once the dog is sitting, the team may proceed.

STATIONARY EXERCISE



**24. HALT - 90° Pivot Left - HALT**

The handler halts and the dog will sit in heel position. Once the dog is sitting, the handler will pivot 90° to the left cuing the dog to move simultaneously and sit in heel position at the completion of the handler's pivot. The sits may be automatic or cued. The handler should perform the pivot in a space roughly the size of a paper plate. Once the dog is sitting the team may proceed.

STATIONARY EXERCISE



**25. Spiral Right - Dog Outside**

This exercise is performed around a set of three cones set in a straight line 5 feet apart. The team completely loops the all three cones in a clockwise direction. Then the team completely loops the first two cones clockwise. Lastly the team circles the first cone clockwise. The exit direction is determined by the location of the next exercise station. The team's movement is similar to the shape of a paperclip.

MOVING EXERCISE



**26. Spiral Left - Dog Inside**

This exercise is performed around a set of three cones set in a straight line 5 feet apart. The team will begin the exercise with the first cone on the team's left. The team completely loops all three cones in a counterclockwise direction. Then the team completely loops the first two cones counterclockwise. Lastly he team circles the first cone counterclockwise. The exit direction is determined by the location of the next exercise station. The team's movement is similar to the shape of a paperclip.

MOVING EXERCISE



**27. HALT - 1, 2, 3 Steps Forward**

The handler halts, and the dog will sit in heel position. Once the dog is sitting the handler will take one step forward, with either foot and halt with both feet together. The dog will move with the handler and sit in heel position as the handler halts. Once the dog is sitting the handler will take two steps forward and halt with both feet together. The dog will move with the handler and sit in heel position as the handler halts. Once the dog is sitting the handler will take three steps forward and halt with both feet together. The dog will sit in heel position as the handler halts. Once the dog is sitting the team may proceed. The sits may be automatic or cued.

STATIONARY EXERCISE

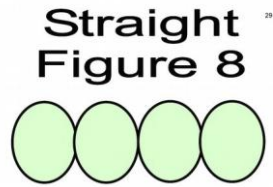


**28. HALT - Turn Right - 1 Step - HALT**

The handler halts and the dog will sit in heel position. The handler cues the dog to heel, takes one full step 90° to their right and halts. As the handler halts the dog will sit. The sits may be an automatic or cued. Once the dog is sitting, the handler may proceed.

STATIONARY EXERCISE

## JRTCA Rally Rulebook



### 29. Straight Figure 8

This exercise is performed around a set of four cones set in a straight line 5 feet apart. The team will begin the exercise with the first cone on the team's left. The team will weave through the cones, wrap around the last cone and weave back through the cones. The exit direction will be determined by the location of the next exercise station.

MOVING EXERCISE



### 30. Serpentine

This exercise is performed around a set of four cones set in a straight line 5 feet apart. The team will begin the exercise with the first cone on the team's left. The team will weave through the cones once. The exit direction will be determined by the location of the next exercise station.

MOVING EXERCISE

## Rally I Bonus Exercises

Bonus exercises are available to earn extra points. Performance variations that would be scored as an NQ in the main portion of the course will cause the Bonus to be scored as a 0; however, behaviors that would result in an excusal will apply in the Bonus exercise. There are no retries of a Bonus exercise.



### Bonus Exercise 1. Halt, Leave Dog, Call To Heel

This exercise incorporates two signs. At the first sign the handler halts, and the dog will sit in heel position. The sit may be automatic or cued. Once the dog is sitting, the handler may drop the leash or take it off and carry it. The handler will cue the dog to stay and proceed to sign 2.



The handler will halt and, without turning, call the dog to sit in heel position. The handler may turn his/her head slightly, but the handler's shoulders must remain in line with the body, facing straight ahead. The handler's feet should remain still while calling the dog. The dog must remain sitting until called, and come promptly. Once sitting, the handler will pick up/put on the leash, and the exercise is complete.

STATIONARY EXERCISE



### Bonus Exercise 2. Call Dog Front, Side Step R/L

The handler stops his/her forward motion and calls the dog to sit at front. The handler may take three to four steps backward while calling the dog to front. Once the dog is sitting at front the handler will take one full step to either the right or left. The handler may not step backwards while performing the side step. The dog is not required to actually side step but must move when the handler moves and sit straight in front of the handler when the handler stops. Once the dog is sitting, the exercise is complete.

STATIONARY EXERCISE



## JRTCA Rally Rulebook



### Bonus Exercise 3. **Halt - Leave Dog - Recall - Turn and Call - Finish Right or Left**

This Bonus exercise incorporates two signs. At the first sign the handler halts, and the dog will sit in heel position. The sit may be automatic or cued. Once the dog is sitting, the handler may drop the leash or take it off and carry it. The handler will cue the dog to stay, proceed to sign 2 and turn to face the dog.



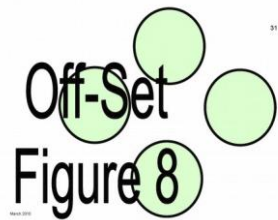
The handler will pause momentarily, and then call the dog to sit at front. Once the dog is sitting, the handler will cue the dog to perform either a Finish Right or Finish Left, at the handler's discretion. The handler's feet should remain still during the recall and finish portion of the exercise. Once sitting, the handler will pick up/put on the leash, and the exercise is complete.  
STATIONARY EXERCISE

## 4.4.b Rally II Description

Level 2 courses have between 15 - 17 exercise signs (not counting the Start, Finish, and Bonus exercise signs.) All courses are performed with the dog off leash. Other than that, all basic rules from Rally I also apply.

Refer to "Rally Course Design Guidelines" below for details on Rally II course design requirements.

### Rally II Exercises



#### 31. **Off-Set Figure 8**

Four dog bowls are arranged in a flattened diamond pattern. Two "end" bowls are 10 feet apart; two "side" bowls are 5 feet apart. Bits of dog food are placed inside each bowl. Bowls must be covered by a mesh screen (wire or material) that prevents dogs from accessing food. The team enters the Figure 8 with the exercise sign to their left. The team must heel in a "figure 8" pattern around the two bowls placed 10 feet apart. It may be vertical or horizontal, depending on the location of the "end bowls" and the entry, as shown in the diagram. There are no halts in this exercise. The handler may cue the dog to leave the bowls alone.  
MOVING EXERCISE



#### 32. **HALT - Leave Dog**

Two signs are needed for this exercise (32 & 33). The first sign directs the handler to halt and have the dog sit stay at heel. Without instruction from the judge, the handler leaves from heel position, and walks to the next sign (33. Turn Call to Front (angled) Finish R/L).  
MOVING EXERCISE

## JRTCA Rally Rulebook



### 33. Turn, Call To Front (angled), Finish R/L

This exercise sign is placed ten feet away and four to six feet to the right or left of the Halt Leave Dog sign, so that the dog approaches the handler at an angle. The handler walks to this sign and turns, facing parallel to the dog, but NOT facing the dog. Without further instruction from the judge, the handler calls the dog to front. The dog must come in at an angle and sit in front position close enough to the handler to be touched on the head or collar. The handler then cues the dog to Finish either Right or Left.

STATIONARY EXERCISE



### 34. HALT - Leave Dog - Recall

Three exercise signs are needed for this exercise (34 and 35, plus 36 or 37). The first sign directs the handler to halt and have the dog sit stay at heel. Without instruction from the judge, the handler leaves from heel position, and walks to the next sign (Turn & Call Front).

MOVING EXERCISE



### 35. Turn & Call (Dog) Front

The handler approaches the sign, turns, and without further instruction from the judge, calls the dog to front position. The dog must sit close enough to the handler to be touched on the head or the collar. This exercise is completed with the dog sitting in the front position, thus must be followed by Exercise 36 (Finish Right) or Exercise 37 (Finish Left).

MOVING EXERCISE



### 36. Finish Right

With the dog sitting in front position, handler cues the dog to finish to the right. The dog moves to the handler's right, continues around behind the handler and sits in the heel position.

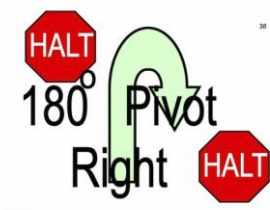
STATIONARY EXERCISE



### 37. Finish Left

With the dog sitting in front position, handler cues the dog to finish to the left. The dog moves to the handler's left, turns toward the handler and moves into a sit in heel position. The "flip" finish, in which the dog leaps up and to the left of the handler, turns in the air and lands in a sit in heel position, is also acceptable.

STATIONARY EXERCISE

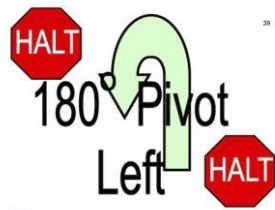


### 38. HALT - 180° Pivot Right - HALT

The team comes to a halt and the dog sits in heel position. The handler cues the dog to heel and pivots in place 180° to his/her right. The dog moves with the handler and resumes a sit in heel position at the second halt. The handler should perform the pivot in a space roughly the size of a paper plate.

STATIONARY EXERCISE

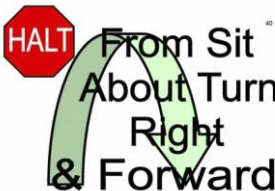
## JRTCA Rally Rulebook



### 39. HALT - 180° Pivot Left - HALT

The team comes to a halt and the dog sits in heel position. The handler cues the dog to heel and pivots in place 180° to his/her left. The dog moves with the handler and resumes a sit position at the second halt. The handler should perform the pivot in a space roughly the size of a paper plate.

STATIONARY EXERCISE



### 40. HALT - From Sit About Turn Right & Forward

This exercise is performed as in Exercise 38, except that there is no halt following the turn. The handler cues the dog to heel and turns in place 180° to his/her right, and immediately moves forward with the dog in heel position.

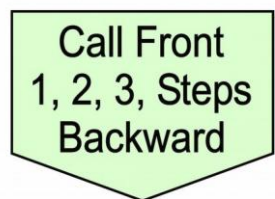
MOVING EXERCISE



### 41. HALT - From Sit About "U" Turn & Forward

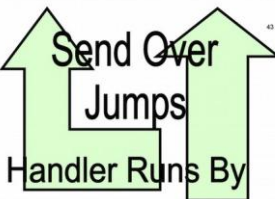
This exercise is performed as in Exercise 39 except that there is no halt following the turn. The handler cues the dog to move, turns in place 180° to his/her left, and immediately moves forward with the dog in heel position.

MOVING EXERCISE



### 42. Call (Dog) Front - 1, 2, 3 Steps Backward

After calling the dog to front as described in Exercise 15, the handler takes one step backward and halts. This is followed by two steps and a halt, then three steps and a halt. The dog should move toward the handler with each step and sit in front position each time the handler halts. Because this exercise concludes with the dog sitting in front of the handler, it must be followed by Exercise 36 (Finish Right) ) or 37 (Finish Left). MOVING EXERCISE



### 43. Send Over Jumps - Handler Runs By

The jump may be either a solid or bar jump - the broad jump shall not be used. This exercise begins 15 to 20 feet in front of, and six feet to the right of, the jump. The handler cues the dog to jump, then runs along a line 6 feet to the right of the jump. When the dog has completed the jump, the handler calls the dog to heel position and the team continues to the next exercise station. If the dog is faster than the handler, the dog may be called back to the handler without penalty. A line may be marked on the ground to indicate the six foot distance. MOVING EXERCISE



### 44. HALT - Leave - Call (Dog) Front While Running

The team comes to a halt and the dog sits in heel position. The handler gives the dog a stay or wait cue and starts running forward. After 2 or 3 running steps, handler calls the dog to front. The dog must immediately start running to overtake the handler. As the dog approaches heel position, handler slows down, and stops to allow the dog to come to the front position. The handler may take 3-4 steps backwards to accomplish the front. The speed that the handler runs is determined by the dog's ability to overtake the handler. Because this exercise concludes with the dog sitting in front of the handler, this exercise must be followed by Exercise 36 (Finish Right) or 37 (Finish Left).

MOVING EXERCISE

## JRTCA Rally Rulebook



### 45. Moving Down — Forward

While moving forward the team comes to a halt and the handler cues the dog to drop directly into a down position (without pausing in the sit first.) Once the dog is in the down, the team heels forward with the dog moving directly from the down to heeling. Alternately, the handler has the option of breaking from heel position to turn in front of the dog to cue the down. When the dog is down, the handler returns to heel position and the team heels forward with the dog moving directly from the down position.

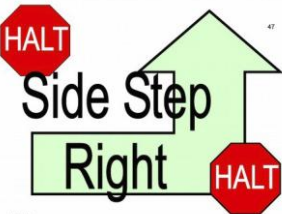
MOVING EXERCISE



### 46. HALT - Fast Forward From Sit

The team comes to a halt and the dog sits in heel position. The handler cues the dog to heel and immediately starts into a fast pace from the halt. This exercise must be followed by Exercise 21 (Normal Pace).

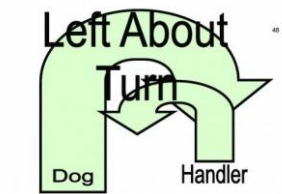
MOVING EXERCISE



### 47. HALT - Side Step Right - HALT

The team comes to a halt and the dog sits in heel position. The handler takes one step directly to his/her right and halts. The dog moves with the handler to the right and sits in heel position. Handler then cues the dog to heel and moves forward toward the next exercise station.

STATIONARY EXERCISE



### 48. Left About Turn

While moving forward with the dog in heel position, the handler does an about U turn (180°) to his/her left, while the dog turns to the right, moving around behind the handler and back to heel position to continue moving with the handler in the new (opposite) direction.

MOVING EXERCISE

## Rally II Bonus Exercises

Bonus exercises are available to earn extra points. Performance variations that would be scored as an NQ in the main portion of the course will cause the Bonus to be scored as a 0; however, behaviors that would result in an excusal will apply during the Bonus exercise. There are no retries of a Bonus exercise.



### Bonus Exercise 1. Moving Down, Leave Dog / (Turn) Call Front, Finish R/L

This exercise requires two signs. At the first sign, Moving Down Leave Dog, the handler will cue the dog to down and without pause, leave the dog and walk to the second sign. Alternately, the handler may turn and face the dog while cueing the down and without hesitating, leave the dog. The handler may continue to face the dog while walking backwards to the next sign. The handler must show smooth continuous movements both when cueing the dog to down and while walking away.

[Proposed] JRTC Rally Rulebook



At the second sign, (Turn) Call Front, Finish R/L, the handler will (turn and) face the dog and call the dog to front. The dog must come promptly to front position and sit close enough to the handler to be touched on the head or the collar. The handler will then cue the dog to finish either Right or Left.  
STATIONARY EXERCISE



Bonus Exercise 2. **Halt Leave Dog / (Turn) Call Front (distraction recall)**  
This exercise requires two signs. At the first sign, Halt Leave Dog, the team halts and the handler cues the dog to sit stay. Without further instruction from the judge, the handler leaves the dog and walks to the second sign 6 to 10 feet away.



At the second sign, the handler turns, faces the dog and calls the dog to come to front. The judge will be in a position approximately 6 feet to the side of the handler, facing the dog. As the dog comes to the handler, the judge walks forward, passing the dog approximately 6 feet to the side of the dog. The dog must sit close enough to the handler to be touched on the head or the collar. The dog must ignore the judge and come directly to the handler and sit in front position. There is no finish.  
STATIONARY EXERCISE



Bonus Exercise 3. **Halt Leave Dog - Turn and Down**  
This exercise requires two signs. At the first sign, Halt Leave Dog, the team halts and the handler cues the dog to sit stay. The handler leaves the dog and walks to the second sign 8 to 10 feet away.



At the second sign, Turn and Down, the handler turns, faces the dog, and cues the dog to down. The dog must go directly into a down position without traveling forward or backward. Once the dog is down, the handler returns to the dog and stands at heel position. The handler must return by passing the dog on the handler's right (the dog's left), turning behind the dog and moving up into heel position.  
STATIONARY EXERCISE

## 5. Course Design Guidelines

Rally Obedience tests the dog/handler team's ability to demonstrate a variety of skills and behaviors while navigating through a pre-designed course of obedience exercises. A Rally course should be both fun and challenging, with each exercise flowing smoothly from one to the next.

### 5.1. General Guidelines (applies to courses of all levels)

The Rally course is comprised of a Start and Finish (unnumbered), a series of numbered Stationary and Moving exercises, and a Bonus exercise (unnumbered).

Some exercises require more time to negotiate than others (such as the # 27 HALT 1-2-3 Steps Forward, # 29 Straight Figure 8, and # 25 and # 26 Spiral exercises, etc.) When including these exercises, care must be taken by the course designer to ensure teams will reasonably be able to complete the course within the regulation 4-minute time limit.

#### 5.1.1. Start and Finish Signs Layout

The Start and Finish signs should be positioned so that both the start and finish lines are easily viewable from a single position. This is to prevent the Timing Steward from having to move in order to see a team cross the finish line.

#### 5.1.2. Stationary and Moving Exercises Layout

Stationary exercises require the dog to stop moving at completion. The total number of Stationary exercises should not exceed 4 for a 14-sign course, 5 for a 15 and 16-sign course, and 6 for a 17-sign course.

Moving exercises require the dog to continue moving at completion. Stationary and Moving exercises within a course should be balanced and positioned to create a smoothly flowing course. Ideally, a Stationary exercise should be followed by a Moving exercise. Stationary exercises may be grouped together to share a common sit. This is often referred to as "Married exercises."

#### 5.1.3. Bonus Exercise Layout

The Bonus exercise is performed after the team crosses the finish line and timing stops. Some Bonus exercises require more than one sign. Courses may be designed to include an extra (not numbered or judged) turn/change of direction sign after the finish sign line so that the team's approach to the Bonus exercise sign(s) is continuous and smooth.

#### 5.1.4. Exercise Sign Placement

Ample spacing should be provided for all sizes and types of dogs to comfortably negotiate the course. The minimum space between exercise signs should be at least 10 feet, except for the following exercises, which require more than 10 feet between each sign:

Level 1 Exercises Requiring More Than 10 Feet

- # 21 Fast Pace / # 22 Normal Pace
- # 27 HALT 1, 2, 3 Steps Forward

Level 2 Exercises Requiring More Than 10 Feet

- # 32 HALT - Leave Dog / # 33 Turn, Call to Front (angled)
- # 34 HALT - Leave Dog / # 35 Turn & Call Front
- # 43 Send Over Jumps - Handler Runs By
- # 46 Fast Forward From Sit / # 22 Normal Pace

**Exercise signs are not required to be consistently laid out in straight 90° angles. The use of diagonals is permissible.**

## JRTCA Rally Rulebook

### 5.1.5. Exercise Sign Usage

The maximum number of times each exercise may be used on any single course should be limited to the total number that exercise sign appears within the official exercise sign listings (available for download as a separate document). For example, in the official Rally I exercise sign listings, there are three Right Turn and three Left Turn exercise signs. Therefore, any Rally course of any level should contain no more than three Right and/or Left Turns.

### 5.2. Level 1 Course Design Guidelines

Level 1 courses must consist of

- a Start and Finish,
- 14 - 18 Level 1 exercises,
- and a Level 1 Bonus exercise.

### 5.3.1. Level 2 Course Design Guidelines

Level 2 courses must consist of

- a Start and Finish,
- 15 - 21 exercises from Level 1 and Level 2 meeting the below requirements,
- and a Level 2 Bonus exercise.

### 5.3.2. Level 2 Course Requirements

**A.** Five complete Level 2 Exercises.

Please Note: Some Level 2 exercises are comprised of more than one exercise sign. For example, # 34 HALT - Leave Dog - Recall, must be followed by # 35 Turn and Call Front, and finally either # 36 Right Finish or # 37 Left Finish. All three signs make up one complete exercise. A jump exercise is optional for Rally II.

**B.** At least one obstacle-orientated exercise from the following list:

- # 25 Spiral Right - Dog Outside
- # 26 Spiral Left - Dog Inside
- # 29 Straight Figure 8
- # 30 Serpentine
- # 31 Off-Set Figure 8
- # 43 Send Over Jumps - Handler Runs By

**C.** At least one of the Level 2 about turn exercises:

- # 40 HALT - From Sit About Turn Right & Forward
- # 41 HALT - From Sit About U Turn & Forward
- # 48 Left About Turn

These requirements are just a guideline.

Some areas JRTCA uses many not have the space required for these distances.

These distances and required signs are for consideration only.