

RallyOnline Group

Competitors Guidelines

You choose a venue to set up the course - anywhere there is suitable size and surface - it can be at home, in a public park (bear in mind safety), at dog training club (if you have one), or other venue. Avoid places where there is too much background noise.

Make sure the judge can see what you are up to! If you are filming outside, be aware of the weather/light/shadow.....

Make sure the surface is suitable - for example if you have a small dog, is the grass short enough that the judge can see if the dog is sitting? Equally important is the surface suitable IF your course includes a jump exercise?

Make sure that the weather is suitable - for example will the wind noise compromise the sound quality? Is your equipment at risk from rainwater?

The video entry needs to be filmed in "One take" - no editing or joining together whatsoever! This includes the identification sequence before the round - where you show the judge that your dog is wearing a flat collar & that you are not attempting to carry anything in your hands. See demonstration video (link).

Remember that the judge needs to be able to see your lead (levels 1 & 2) - so if you've got a black dog, don't choose a black lead and black trousers..... At the higher levels the judge will need to see you take the lead off and place it at the appointed place.

RallyOnline gives you the opportunity to practice the round before your "actual" go....this can be useful, but also can lead to anticipation on the part of dog and handler....or tiredness.....

continues



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The Show Management will be available online as much as possible the week before the entries close to answer any questions. Anything to do with judging the round will be passed to the Judge, and it will be the judges choice whether they engage in direct online discussions or provide an answer via the Show Management. Once entries close and judging is underway there will be no more debate - as the rules state - Judges decision is final, and no impugning the Judges decisions.

IDENTIFICATION PROCESS - at the beginning of each and every round.....

The judge needs to see that the handler has nothing in their hands.

The show organisers need to ID the team competing. Just as at a real show, the Judge only identifies the competitor by their ring number.

The handler declares whether they wish to attempt the bonus exercise. If you want to attempt the bonus then you hold the bonus card so that the word BONUS is visible to the judge. If you do not wish to attempt the bonus, you hold the card so that the blank side is facing the judge.

The sequence of collar being undone, replaced, signs to be picked up and shown, is quite specific and has been developed in consultation with experienced Judges & RWP members. Please stick to it....failure at this point would be upsetting for all involved.

Things to bear in mind - your own individual "warm up" sequence....remember that just as at a real show, you can't take food/toys into the ring..... practice and figure out what works for you and your dog.



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Your main warm up should be *before* you undertake the ID process of holding up your signs - and off camera! Once you have shown your ID to the camera, and replaced your signs then you are free to start your round in your own time....a small amount of warm up between ID & crossing the start line is acceptable (maximum 5 paces if you're heeling) , but remember to behave as you would at a real show.

Levels 1 & 2 (on lead) - handlers undertake the ID process with the dog on lead. If you want to loop the lead around the dog while taking the collar off/on then that is quite acceptable.

Levels 3-6 (competing off lead) - handlers should enter the ring on lead, and remove it as part of the ID process. The Judge may specify where they wish the lead to be placed for their class, or leave it to the handlers discretion.

How to film a round that can be judged

Each course will have an X marked on it. This is the Judging /filming location. The normal spot will be at the edge of the ring. This will mean that you can choose whether to set up your camera on a tripod and work alone, or whether you organise a camera person to film you.

We suggest getting a friend to help you, and then return the favour...this way you both get to appreciate the different roles.

"Best practice" that we've developed so far is to use a seat for the camera person. This helps keep the camera in a consistent place, and helps reduce wobbles! It is also easier to replicate if we subsequently need you to set it up again for a course verification.

If you are working alone and using a tripod or balancing the camera



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somehow....remember to set everything else up before starting to record....it would be rude to keep the judge waiting too long before you appear on camera.

The video submission needs to be clear - so check the auto-focus is working, to help balance the camera it can be useful to rest elbows on knees to help stabilise things (thanks to a photographer friend for this tip).

Keep the handler and dog in view at all times Avoid too much zooming in and out....as this is hard on the camera person and the judge.....the goal is to get a round which can be judged without making life too difficult for anyone, which includes giving the judge motion sickness.

Check video to make sure that your ring number can be read...that you are not a small dot in the distance...

Another tip for newcomers is to first video the handler walking the round without their dog. This isn't submitted to ROL, but watching it back will tell you whether it's likely to be ok.

Remember to thank your helper! A good camera person is a valuable asset, and you'll want them to repeat the favour for your next entry!

Entering the event....

Download & study the course. If you have any questions, email us at admin@rallyonline.org or ask a question on the RallyOnline Facebook Group. Make sure we know which class you are enquiring about. We will forward your question to the Judge, or answer directly if it is about the Show Management. It is the Judges discretion whether they wish to enter discussions directly



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online (Facebook group) or reply via email. If relevant then the Chief Steward will ensure it is added to the RallyOnline website so that it is available to all competitors.

After filming your round, we strongly recommend watching your video before submitting itit is up to you to submit a round that can be judged...

Upload it to youtube. Keep a note of the link you will want it to enter...."copy & paste" is more likely to work reliably than typing it in again!

Fill out the entry form & pay the entry fee.....

All RallyOnline entry forms will contain an additional declaration - confirming willingness to share video with KC Rally Judges to help promote judges training.



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