

Rally Obedience Performance Standards

MBDCA Rally Obedience is based on the 2005 AKC Rally Rules. For more information, signs, and exercise descriptions, go to www.akc.org and follow the links to Rally Obedience.

General Procedures

Set Up and Walk Through. A 30-minute minimum period for setup and walk-through, prior to the start of the class, should be scheduled for each class to be judged.

Qualifying Scores and General Scoring. Scores will be posted ringside after each dog and handler team has completed the final exercise. Times will be recorded but not posted. Times will be used only to break ties for placements. To qualify, dog and handler must receive a minimum score of 70 points out of a possible perfect score of 100. A rally title may be added after the dog's name when three qualifying scores have been earned under at least two different judges at 2 different events. **Dogs may earn two rally legs under two different judges on the same day as long as a minimum of three signs have been changed for the second course.**

Scoring for all levels is based on a maximum score of 100 points. The following deductions shall apply:

- 1-point deduction for each of the following:
 - Tight leash
 - Dog interfering with handler's forward motion
 - Poor sits
 - Slow, delay, or resistance to respond
 - Touching or ticking a jump, pylon, post or person
 - Out of position
- 3-point deduction for each of the following:
 - Repeat of a station
 - Pylon/post knocked over (on Figure Eight, Spiral, and Serpentine)
 - Lack of control
 - Loud command or intimidating signal
 - Excessive barking
 - Handler error

- 10-point deduction for each of the following:
 - Incorrectly performed station
 - Hitting the jump
 - Handler error
- 1- to 10-point deduction:
 - Lack of teamwork
- Non-qualifying (NQ) scores shall be given for:
 - Minimum requirements not met
 - Dog unmanageable
 - Station not attempted
 - Consistently tight lead
 - Substantially out of position/not completing the honor exercise
 - Elimination in the ring during judging
 - Bar knocked off the uprights/using jump as an aid in going over
 - Handler error

Timing. All dogs will be timed. Times will be used only in the event of ties for a placement, as mentioned in Section 9. Timing will begin when the Judge gives the order, "Forward," and will end when dog and handler cross the finish line. In the case of tied scores, the dog and handler completing the course in the least amount of time will receive the higher placement and a plus (+) after the score. The original scores will not be changed. In the event that both the score and time are the same, the dog and handler teams will repeat the course and be judged and timed again.

Ribbons and Prizes. Awards for the four placements in each class will be based solely on the number of points earned, with the exception of ties.

Classes And Titles

Rally Novice Class

All exercises are judged on leash, and all dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. The leash must be made of fabric or leather and needs to be long enough to provide adequate slack.

Rally Novice A and B must have between 10 - 15 stations (Start and Finish not included) with no more than five (5) stationary exercises per class.

The Rally Novice A Class. Dogs competing in this class may not have won a Rally Novice (RN) title or any other Novice, Open, or Utility title from any organization.

The handler may not have previously handled any dog that has earned a Rally title or any other Novice, Open, or Utility title from any other organization. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. After a dog earns the Mixed Breed Rally Novice (MB-RN) title, it may continue to compete in this class for 60 days.

The Rally Novice B Class. Dogs completing the Mixed Breed Rally Novice (MB-RN) title may continue to compete in this class until a qualifying score in the Rally Advanced Class is earned.

Rally Advanced Class

All exercises are judged off leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash.

Rally Advanced A and B must have between 12 - 17 stations (Start and Finish not included) with no more than seven (7) stationary exercises per class.

The Rally Advanced A Class shall be for dogs that have won the Mixed Breed Rally Novice (MB-RN) title but have not won the Mixed Breed Rally Advanced (MB-RA) title or any Novice, Open, or Utility title from any organization. After a dog earns the Mixed Breed Rally Advanced (MB-RA) title, it may continue to compete in this class for 60 days.

The Rally Advanced B Class will be for dogs that have won the Mixed Breed Rally Novice (MB-RN) title. A dog completing the Mixed Breed Rally Advanced (MB-RA) title may continue to compete in this class indefinitely.

Jumps. One jump must be used for this class. It may be any jump used as standard equipment in obedience classes (broad jump, high jump, or bar jump), except that 4-foot wide jumps may be used in place of 5-foot wide jumps. Various colors and decorations are allowed; however, there must be nothing hanging from the jump.

It is the judge's responsibility to see that the jumps are set for each dog in accordance with these Regulations.

The Broad Jump will consist of three telescoping hurdles, each approximately 8 inches wide. The largest hurdle will measure about 4 feet 10 inches long (if from a 5-foot set) and about 5 inches at the highest point.

In the ring, broad jump hurdles will be arranged in order of size from smallest to largest. They will be evenly spaced, covering a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump set for each dog. Three hurdles will be used for a jump of 32 inches

and two hurdles for a jump of 16 or 24 inches. When decreasing the number of hurdles in the jump, the highest hurdle will be removed first.

The High Jump consists of two uprights and solid boards of varying widths that combine to make each dog's required jump height.

The Bar Jump also has two uprights. These are constructed to support only a striped bar which is set at the dog's required jump height.

Jump Heights. The dog's jump height shall be given on the entry form. Entries may be arranged according to the jump height of the dogs, from either high to low or low to high.

Height of Dog at Withers	Height to be Jumped
Under 15''	8''
15'' and under 20''	12''
20'' and over	16''

Rally Excellent Class

All exercises are judged off leash except the Honor Exercise. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash.

Rally Excellent must have between 15 - 20 stations (Start and Finish not included) with no more than seven stationary exercises per class. Unlike in the Rally Novice and Advanced Classes, in Rally Excellent handlers are not allowed to pat their legs or clap their hands to encourage the dog. Verbal encouragement, multiple commands, and/or inaudible signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. Handlers may not touch their dog or make any physical corrections.

The Rally Excellent A Class shall be for dogs that have earned the Mixed Breed Rally Advanced (MB-RA) title, but have not earned the Mixed Breed Rally Excellent (MB-RE) title or any Novice, Open, or Utility title from any organization. After earning the Rally Excellent (RE) title, a dog may continue to compete in this class for 60 days.

The Rally Excellent B Class will be for dogs that have won the Mixed Breed Rally

Advanced (MB-RA) title. A dog completing the Mixed Breed Rally Excellent (MB-RE) title may continue to compete in this class indefinitely.

Two jumps must be used for this class. Jumps may be any jump or any combination of the jumps that may be used as standard equipment in the obedience classes (broad jump, high jump, or bar jump), except that 4-foot jumps may be used in place of 5-foot jumps. Various colors and decorations are allowed; however, there must be nothing hanging from the jump. Jumps may not be used consecutively on the course.

The Honor Exercise. Prior to each class, the judge will designate either the sit or the down for the Honor Exercise, as well as the placement in the ring, and will also designate where the handler will stand during the exercise — either next to or facing the dog. The Honor Exercise must not be in the path of the dog and handler team that follows. Volunteer dogs will be used for both honoring the first dog in the class and as a course run-through when the last dog performs the Honor Exercise.

After completing the course, each dog and handler may either reenter through the finish gate, or they may proceed directly to the honor station. The dog must remain in either a sit or a down position to honor the next dog and handler's entire course. This exercise must be performed on leash. For the Honor Exercise, the ring steward will monitor each team, record the score, and immediately report it to the table steward.

Rally Advanced Excellent Title

Upon completion of the Rally Excellent title, qualifying scores may be accumulated from the Rally Advanced B Class and the Rally Excellent B Class to earn the Mixed Breed Rally Advanced Excellent (MB-RAE) title.

In order to receive the MB-RAE title, a dog must qualify ten (10) times in both the Rally Advanced B Class and the Rally Excellent B Class at the same trial. The RAE title will appear at the end of the dog's name and a numeric designation will indicate the number of times the dog has met RAE requirements, i.e. RAE2, RAE3, etc.