



RALLY - SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

from Kennel Club Working Party Meetings 16 March 2015 & 20 July 2015

	Proposed	Recommended	Action
1.	Summary of Recommendations from Kennel Club Working Party Meeting 3 November 2014	<p>The Working Party wished to clarify item 19 on the document, the second paragraph of which should read as follows:</p> <p><i>'It was confirmed that Level 1 Bonus Exercise 2 was to be performed on lead.</i></p> <p><i>It was acceptable for the judge to mark the handler releasing the dog or giving touch praise before the lead was reattached, but this should not be marked as NQ.'</i></p> <p>The Working Party wished to remind competitors that in Level 1 Bonus Exercises 1 and 3, the lead may be dropped or removed, but that the exercise was not considered to be complete until the lead had been reattached or picked up. If the competitor should fail to reattach or pick up their lead before physically praising their dog or releasing them from the heel position then this should be marked as Exercise Not Complete'.</p> <p>The Working Party also wished to remind competitors that there was no requirement to reattach their lead as part of the Bonus Exercises in Levels 3 to 6. However it is good practice for all dogs to enter and leave the ring on lead.</p>	Judges and competitors to note.
2.	Regional meetings	The Working Party was keen to encourage maximum involvement in its work from members of the Rally community and planned to hold a number of informal regional meetings during which members of the Working Party would make themselves available at specific times to answer any questions or to discuss issues.	Competition organisers, competitors and judges to note.
3.	List of judges	All previously listed judges have been contacted asking if they wished to remain on the list of judges and an updated list would be available on the Kennel Club website in the near future. The Working Party did have some concerns that some judges may have removed their names from the list, or had withdrawn from judging appointments, in the erroneous belief that they were not suitably qualified. Any such judges were requested to check the criteria published on the Kennel Club website at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/training/judges-education/rally-judges-training/requirements-of-a-rally-judge/ and to contact the Kennel Club if they wished their names to be added to the current list.	Judges and competition organisers to note.
4.	Limited Competitions	The Working Party recommended the following Regulation amendments for approval which would allow for the introduction of Limited Competitions which it was considered would be beneficial to the discipline:	Competition societies, competitors and judges to note.



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		<p>New Regulation: S4. Licensed Rally Competitions. TO: Licensed Competitions held under Kennel Club Rules and Regulations are those held under licence granted by the General Committee of the Kennel Club and are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Open Rally Competitions - Open to all competitors. b. Limited Rally Competitions - Where entry is limited to- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Members of the Competition Society (ii) Competitors resident within a specific area (iii) Specific Breeds (iv) By numbers (such numbers to be stipulated in the schedule) (v) Or otherwise subject to approval of the General Committee of the Kennel Club. <p>(Insertions in bold.) (Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered.)</p> <p>S17.b. TO: Before judging a Level 1 or Level 2 class at a an Open Rally Competition a judge must have:</p> <p>New Regulation S17.e. Before judging at a Limited Rally Competition a judge must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) handled a dog and achieved a Qualifying Score whilst competing at an Open Rally Competition. (2) attended a Kennel Club Rally Regulations and Judging Procedure Seminar and passed the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination (3) attended a Kennel Club Rally Practical Judging Seminar (4) OR be an existing Kennel Club qualified Rally judge <p>(Insertions in bold. Deletion struck through.) (Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered.)</p> <p>Regulation S(A)1. Levels TO:</p>	<p>These will be included in the 2016 regulations, subject to approval by the General Committee.</p>



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		<p>Rally handler/dog teams compete at one of six levels, from Level 1 to Level 6. Progression to the next Level does not require either wins or places. Qualification is by achieving a score of at least 170 out of 200 on three occasions under three different judges. Scores of 170 or greater earned at Limited Rally Competitions do not count towards Progression, Rally Level Titles or Excellent Titles. (Insertions in bold.)</p> <p>The Working Party's view was that the introduction of Limited Rally competitions was a positive step for the discipline and it was anticipated that it would be effective in encouraging many new participants to the discipline. It was hoped that breed clubs would schedule Rally classes at breed open shows which would attract exhibitors to 'have a go' which would result in them taking an active part in the discipline in future.</p> <p>Note: it was assumed that Limit Competition Fees for Licensed Clubs would be £25 in line with the fees for Obedience but this would be subject to approval at the Kennel Club's Annual General Meeting which would take place in May 2016.</p> <p>It was confirmed that, subject to General Committee approval, it would be permissible for Limited Rally competitions to take place from January 2016.</p>	
5.	Scribes competing at competitions	<p>The Working Party clarified that there was no intention to introduce any Regulation which would prevent a scribe from working his or her own dog at a competition. However, it was highlighted that a scribe doing so should have no effect on the smooth running of the competition. It was confirmed that scribing did not have to be carried out by the same person for the full duration of the class unless the person was scribing to fulfil the criteria to qualify as a judge.</p>	Competition organisers, judges and competitors to note.
6.	Course design	<p>The importance of good course design was stressed, and the Working Party wished to encourage the design of courses which included a good mix of static and moving exercises which would result in a flowing course which would be enjoyable for all competitors.</p>	Judges to note the Working Party's views.



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7.	Number of stations	The Working Party had been made aware of concerns from some participants to Rally regarding rounds with only the minimum number of stations. It did not consider such concerns to be widespread. It was emphasised that course design was subject to the size of the ring available but that even a course containing the minimum number of stations could still be challenging and enjoyable for competitors. Competitions wishing to offer competitors opportunities to maximise their experience could schedule special classes which would allow competitors to enter an additional class at a competition.	Competition organisers, judges and competitors to note.
8.	Certificates of Achievement	<p>The Working Party considered the awarding of Certificates of Achievement. It accepted that it would be a positive step for handlers to be able to claim a certificate when an Excellent title was achieved, and would give recognition to Rally as a discipline. However, as no other discipline awards certificated purely for progression to a higher level, the Working Party was of the view that handlers should only receive certificates for the achievement of an Excellent award (and not for attaining a Level title). The Working Party agreed to place the issue of Certificates of Achievement on its five-year plan for consideration in more detail in the future.</p> <p>It was accepted that there was still some disquiet amongst handlers that it was possible to achieve a Level title without gaining an Excellent title. The Working Party wished to clarify that this was a matter of personal choice and that handlers wishing to gain an Excellent title should only compete at one Level.</p>	Competitors to note.
9.	Formulation of five-year plan	The Working Party agreed that a five-year plan should be created with the objective of developing Rally as a growing discipline. A number of issues would be considered at future meetings.	All to note, and suggestions to be notified to any member of the Working Party.
10.	Definition of 'station'	The Working Party clarified that a 'station' was a place where an exercise was performed, a 'sign' gave an instruction regarding what action was required, and the 'exercise' consisted of carrying out the required behaviour.	Competition societies, competitors and judges to note.



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11.	Ratio of signs in Level 3 courses	Regulation S(B)2.c.(1) stated that, for Level 3, there should be a ratio of one-third Level 3-4 signs to two-thirds Level 1-2 signs. The Working Party clarified that, as all Level 1-2 signs were complete exercises, Level 3-4 signs should be regarded as exercises or signs. It confirmed that some exercises may consist of more than one sign, and that in this instance, two signs equalled one exercise. Accordingly, exercises which required multiple signs were marked as one exercise but counted as individual signs for course design.	Competition societies, competitors and judges to note.
12.	Number of exercises in a course	<p>The Working Party was requested to clarify Regulation S(B)2.e.(1) which stated that a Level 5-6 course should incorporate a maximum of six exercises from Level 5-6 and maximum of six from Level 3-4, and that a maximum of two jump exercises should be included. It was confirmed that a Level 5-6 course may include no jumps at all, or may include up to two. It was also clarified that where a Regulation included the word 'should', this indicated a mandatory requirement.</p> <p>The Working Party also wished to confirm that Level 1 and 2 courses should consist of 10 -15 signs (not exercises or stations) and that Level 3 - 6 courses should consist of 15-17 signs (not exercises or stations).</p>	Competition societies, competitors and judges to note.
13.	Attendance at seminars	The Working Party wished to encourage as many people as possible, even those with no intention of judging, to attend both the Rally Regulations and Judging Procedure Seminar and the Rally Practical Judging Seminar. It considered that it would be helpful for all competitors to have a good understanding of rules and procedures.	<p>Competitors to note.</p> <p>Anyone wishing to attend course may contact a judges' trainer to ask about availability of courses.</p>
14.	Competition Management Seminar	Plans for the Competition Management Seminar were almost complete, and a formal launch will take place on Sunday 29 November 2015 at the Kennel Club Building at Stoneleigh. Secretaries of relevant Societies will receive further information in due course, but anyone may attend.	Competition organisers to note
15.	Withdrawal of an invitation to judge	The Working Party wished to clarify that Kennel Club's Code of Best Practice for Judges stated that judges must be physically and mentally able to fulfil the appointment, and that an invitation may be withdrawn should the society have concerns regarding the fitness or suitability of the judge. In most cases such concerns would relate to health issues, but other exceptional circumstances may apply.	Judges and competition organisers to note



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16.	Attracting newcomers to Rally	The Working Party suggested that training clubs could highlight the suitability of Rally for those handlers who had attained their Gold Kennel Club Good Citizen award as the discipline could provide such handlers with ongoing challenging activities. Many such handlers did not wish to take part in competitive Obedience or Agility, but may well be interested in Rally which was perceived as being friendly and not too daunting for those wishing to take part in a competitive event for the first time.	Registered and Listed Societies to note
17.	Retention of existing competitors - progression	The Working Party was of the view that the issue of progression through the levels, and ultimately beyond Level 6, could not be addressed at the current time as it was necessary to allow the discipline to develop, and for the Rally community to become fully accustomed to the existing structure, before any further changes could be made. The issue of progression, and whether or not it was necessary to make any amendments to the current structure are a part of the five year plan.	All to note.
18.	Qualifying certificates	The Working Party wished to clarify that it was not necessary for the name of a handler to be shown on certificates awarded to those achieving qualifying scores, as it was the dog that was considered to be qualified, not the handler. It was also confirmed that the entry form must be completed in the name of the registered owner of the dog, but that it may also state the name of the handler if the dog was not to be handled by its registered owner.	Competitors and competition organisers to note.
19.	Score sheets	<p>There had been some confusion regarding score sheets. The Working Party wished to draw attention to the Guide for Rally Judges which stated that Judges must provide their own scribe sheets. It was clarified that these remained the property of the Judge and must be taken home by the Judge at the end of the competition. It was also highlighted that judges may use their own score sheets. A standardised score sheet was available from www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/567659/specimen_score_sheet_all_levels.pdf but it was not compulsory for judges to use it. It was considered that good communication between the judge and the scribe was key to the smooth running of a ring and the scribe should be clear as to the wishes of the judge.</p> <p>A judge may share the content of their judging scribe sheet with a competitor who must not remove it from the score table.</p>	Judges, competitors and competition organisers to note.



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20.	Special Classes	<p>The Working Party wished to encourage clubs to schedule more Special (or non-qualifying classes) and to provide competitors with the opportunity to enter more such classes. Accordingly it recommended for approval a proposed amendment to the above Regulation S(A)2 which would enable competitors to enter two Special classes from 2016 while retaining the requirement to enter the standard class for which they were eligible.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S(A)2. Eligibility TO: When entered for a show competition, a dog must be entered in a standard class at the level for which it is eligible as defined below. The dog may also, if desired, be entered in two additional classes, either one further standard class at the next level up, plus one additional special class, or two additional special classes. In the following definitions, 'achieved a Level 1 Title', 'achieved a Level 2 Title' and so on mean that the dog meets the requirements for those Titles as defined in paragraph 3 below. (Insertions in bold. Deletion struck through.)</p> <p>The Working Party also wished to clarify that judges for Special classes must be qualified in accordance with Kennel Club 'S' Regulations.</p>	<p>Competitors and competition organisers to note.</p> <p>The revised Regulation will come into effect 1 January 2016.</p>
21.	Eligibility for placings	<p>The Working Party had been requested to discuss the issue of which non-qualifying teams were eligible for places, and whether a team receiving an NQ score with a score of 10 or more on one station was eligible to be awarded a place. It agreed that there was some confusion in the way in which the terminology was used, with some referring to an NQ score to describe a dog which had been eliminated due to a serious error, whereas others used it to refer to a dog which had failed to achieve a qualifying score. In the interests of clarity, it was therefore agreed that places should only be awarded to those dogs which had achieved a qualifying score.</p>	<p>Judges, competitors and competition organisers to note.</p>
22.	Old versions of signs	<p>The Working Party was firmly of the view that clubs should not be using old versions of signs, and that there should be no period of grace. Up to date signs should be in use as soon as revised versions came into effect.</p>	<p>Competition organisers to note.</p>
23.	Submission of course plans	<p>The Working Party emphasised that the intention of submitting a course plan was for competition organisers to check that any necessary equipment was available on the day of the competition. It was the responsibility of the judge to ensure that their course was suitable and that it did not contravene Kennel Club Regulations. It</p>	<p>Judges and competition organisers to note.</p>



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		<p>wished to clarify that where a competition secretary received a course plan and was concerned that it did not comply with Kennel Club Regulations, the issue should be raised with the judge beforehand and if possible, resolved prior to the competition. However, any concerns relating to the complexity or suitability of the course were not within the remit of the competition secretary and should not be raised with the judge.</p> <p>Should there be issues relating to the course's compliance with Regulations on the day of the competition, the Chief Rally Steward should attempt to resolve them, and if this was not possible, a note should be made in the competition's incident book and the matter referred to the Kennel Club.</p>	
24.	Over exposure of judges	<p>The Working Party addressed concerns regarding judges undertaking appointments to judge the same Level several times within a short period. It was acknowledged that on occasion, competition societies experienced difficulties in appointing judges who had not recently judged the same Level, but it was hoped that judges would refuse appointments to judge any one Level too frequently. Judges were requested, where possible, to vary the Levels they judged in the interests of fairness to competitors.</p>	Judges and competition organisers to note.
25.	Field Officer visits	<p>Visits to Rally competitions by Kennel Club Field Officers had commenced. The role of the Field Officer was to ensure that competitions were run in accordance with Kennel Club Regulations, and that the Officer would be required to check that the correct Kennel Club Licence was on display, together with insurance and other documentation. He or she would also check that rings were of the appropriate size, and that health and safety issues had been addressed. It was emphasised that Field Officers would provide assistance and advice to competition organisers, and that a Field Officer visit should not be perceived as any cause for concern.</p>	Competition organisers to note.