

## AKC Rally Novice Virtual Pilot Program Frequently Asked Questions

### **INFORMATION:**

**Q. Where do I find information?**

**A. Click these links:**

Information/entry form [Information & Entry Form](#)

Courses [Novice Courses](#) Signs [AKC Rally® Signs](#)

AKC Rally® Regulations [Regulations](#)

AKC YouTube Videos [AKC Novice Videos](#)

### **ELIGIBILITY, REGISTRATION and TITLING INFORMATION**

**Q. Is my dog eligible to enter the AKC Rally® Novice B class?**

**A.** Your dog must be at least six months old and be registered with the American Kennel Club or recorded through the AKC Purebred Alternative Listing Program (PAL) or [Canine Partners Program](#). [PAL Program Application](#) may be submitted via email at [PAL@akc.org](mailto:PAL@akc.org). For additional registration information click <https://www.akc.org/register/>. [Foreign registered dogs](#) may enter and show for 30 days on the dog's Foreign number. In order to be eligible beyond the 30 days the dog must be registered/recorded with AKC. A title certificate will not be issued until the dog is registered/recorded with AKC.

**Q. I've never shown in Rally before, I thought I was supposed to enter the A class, am I not eligible?**

**A.** All dogs who are eligible to compete in Rally Novice classes are eligible to show in Rally Novice B. The only purpose for separating the classes is for placements, there is no competition with virtual entries so there is no need for placements.

**Q. If my dog earns an RN from the Rally Novice B will that affect my eligibility later to enter Advanced A and Excellent A?**

**A.** No, if your dog hasn't earned an obedience title, it will remain eligible for the A classes.

**Q. How many qualifying scores (legs) does it take to earn an RN title?**

**A.** Three qualifying scores under two different judges. You must use a different course for each virtual entry you submit for the RN title. Once all three qualifying scores are recorded on your dog's record you will receive a title certificate from AKC.

**Q. My dog has two legs towards the RN title, do I have to start all over virtually to get three legs to earn the RN title?**

**A.** No, the previously earned qualifying scores (legs) will count towards the RN title.

**Q. Can I send multiple entries together in one email or do I have to send them in separately on different dates?**

**A.** You can send multiple entries together. A dog can only be entered once in the same class per event, your entries will be divided out into different event numbers on different days internally.

**Q. Once my dog earns three qualifying scores in Rally Novice B, can I still submit entries for fun?**

**A.** Yes! Your dog is eligible to continue showing in Rally Novice B until it earns a qualifying score in the Rally Advanced class. You can enter here virtually and at trials once they start up again.

- Q.** If my dog earns the RN title virtually, does that mean I can then enter the Advanced class when clubs start having trials again?
- A.** Technically speaking, yes, however think about this, if the only exposure your dog has had to performing is at home, moving onto advanced classes that are off leash may not be what is best for your dog. Due to Covid19 our dogs have been socially isolated for a long period of time. It is likely going to take time to reacclimate our dogs to the world, let alone the dog show world. Your dog will continue to be eligible for Rally Novice B or you could enter the Intermediate class to get your dog more experience. Both classes are performed on leash which can provide a positive experience before you have your dog off leash in advanced classes.
- Q.** Is there a minimum age for a junior to enter and will the Junior Handler earn points towards the Junior Recognition Program?
- A.** There is no minimum age for a child and yes, the junior can earn points, please be sure to include the Junior # on the entry form. Junior resources: <https://www.akc.org/sports/juniors/>

### **GENERAL NEED-TO-KNOW PARTICIPATION AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

Every sport has rules and regulations. Please do your research before you submit videos. Here are a couple of tips to help get you started...

- Q.** Can I have food and/or a toy on the course?
- A.** No, no food on the course, not in your hand, not in your pocket. This is a test to see if your dog can work with you and for you without food/toys. You can talk and praise your dog and use your hands, without luring, throughout the course.
- Q.** Can I have my dog on a harness or special training collar, and what kind of leash do I have to use?
- A.** All dogs must wear a properly fitted collar, no harness and no electronic or prong collars are allowed on the course. The leash must be made of fabric or leather and long enough to provide adequate slack and clipped to the collar.
- Q.** How do I perform the signs?
- A.** Refer to the [Regulations](#) for the most detailed information. Heel position: the dog is at your left side, facing the same direction as you, close to your left hip without crowding or interfering with you.
- Q.** May dogs that limp, have a bandage, and/or whose coat is dyed participate?
- A.** No, these dogs may not participate. You should not submit a video until these conditions are corrected/gone.
- Q.** Who views the videos and how is this different than a regular trial?
- A.** Each video is reviewed by an approved judge. You and your dog are judged the same as you would be at a regular trial. Each qualifying score counts as a leg towards the RN title. You are not competing against anyone. There is no time recorded because there are no placements. There is no need for an A and B class because there are no placements.

**Q.** How are points lost?

**A.** For all scoring information please refer to the AKC Rally® Regulations, Chapter 2 and the Glossary, pages 44 and 45 [Regulations](#)

### **SETTING UP THE COURSE – SIGNS & EQUIPMENT**

**Q.** Can I set up the course at a park or training building?

**A.** Yes, you may set up outside, at a park, or at a building. Be sure to follow state, local and CDC guidelines.

**Q.** Are there specific requirements for ring size, spacing between signs and/or where to set the signs?

**A.** Signs are placed to the handlers right, change of direction signs are placed in front of the handler. There is not a required ring size for this pilot program. Set the course up according to the map. The spacing between the signs is up to the exhibitor. Recommended spacing between pylons is 6-8 feet.

**Q.** The courses have pylons on them. Can we use something besides pylons, like buckets etc.?

**A.** Yes, absolutely!

**Q.** Do we have to print the signs that are on the AKC website?

**A.** No, you don't have to. You can hand write your own signs.

**Q.** Do we have to use sign holder of some type?

**A.** No, the exhibitor is the only one who needs to be able to read the signs. You can lay them on the ground/floor and secure as needed to.

### **CAMERA POSITION, VIDEOTAPING & YOUTUBE**

**Q.** Do we have to place the camera where it is indicated on the map, can someone video me instead?

**A.** If the camera is in a stationary position, then yes, use the camera placement on the course map. You may have someone video tape you. The person with the camera should capture the performance with the dog between the camera and the handler as much as possible.

**Q.** Can we share our videos with other people?

**A.** The videos belong to you, so yes you may. You control who can see your YouTube video files by setting the privacy settings on your videos. If you want to make them public, it is up to you.

**Q.** Can we send video files instead of using YouTube? I don't have a YouTube channel.

**A.** We cannot accept video files. The videos must be submitted via a YouTube link. Google "How do I create a personal YouTube account?" You will find lots of links like this one to assist you: <https://blog.hotmart.com/en/create-youtube-channel/> Remember to set the privacy settings correctly. You must grant viewing permission. **PLEASE check the video link you are sending us before you send it. Broken links will delay judging and results.**

**Q.** What are the video requirements?

**A.** The video must be continuous, no pauses, no edits and must contain audio.

**Q.** How long before I know if I qualified?

**A.** You should receive email results within 7-14 days of email receipt the entry has been processed.