

## AKC Rally Virtual Pilot Program Frequently Asked Questions

### **INFORMATION:**

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

**A. Click these links:**

[Entry Form Instructions](#)   [Entry form](#)

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

AKC Rally®: [Regulations](#)   How to perform AKC Rally Signs: [Novice Videos](#)   [Intermediate Videos](#)

**Q. Can I send multiple entries on the same day or do I have to send them in on different days?**

**A. Yes you can send multiple entries in on the same day.**

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

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

**A. Yes, if your dog hasn't won the Rally Advanced title.**

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 Applications](#) 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 AKC registered/recorded.

**Q. **NOVICE**:** 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. **NOVICE**:** If my dog earns an RN from the Rally Novice B class, 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 a Rally title?**

**A. Three qualifying scores under two different judges. You must use a different class course for each virtual entry you submit for each title level. 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 he earned at a dog show, do I have to start all over virtually to get three legs to earn a title?**

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

**Q. Once my dog earns three qualifying scores in Rally Novice B and/or Intermediate, 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; and your dog is eligible to continue showing in Intermediate until it earns the Rally Advanced (RA) title. 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 Intermediate or Advanced class when clubs start having trials again?
- A.** Your dog will be eligible for the Intermediate and Advanced classes. Your dog also remains eligible for the Rally Novice B class until it earns a qualifying score in an Advanced class. If the only exposure your dog has had to performing is in familiar areas, moving onto advanced classes that are off leash may not be what is best for your dog. Due to COVID-19 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. Both the Novice B and Intermediate classes are performed on leash, which can provide a positive experience before you have your dog off leash in advanced classes.
- Q. INTERMEDIATE:** What is this class and what are the eligibility requirements for this class?
- A.** The class is an optional titling class, meaning the dog doesn't have to earn the Rally Intermediate (RI) title to be eligible to enter the Rally Advanced class. It is a great class for Rally Novice titled dogs to gain additional on-leash experience. The dog must have earned the AKC Rally Novice (RN) title and may not have earned the Rally Advanced (RA) title. The course is performed with the dog on leash.
- 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's # on the entry form. For more information go to Junior resources: <https://www.akc.org/sports/juniors/>
- Q.** How long before I know if I qualified?
- A.** After AKC confirms receipt of your entry, you should receive email results within 30 days.

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

Every sport has Rules and Regulations. Here are some tips to help get you started.

- Please do your research before you submit an entry and video. Take your time filling out the online entry form, and check that all the information on the form is correct before you click submit.
- Check that you have entered your dog's AKC # correctly without spaces between letters and numbers. Include all letters that appear in your dog's number.
- If there are issues with your entry form, payment or video you will be notified. These problems will delay the processing of your entry and results.

**Q.** Can I have food and/or a toy in my hand or pocket 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. If you are luring, appearing to have a treat/reward in your hand, you will lose at least 6 points for each occurrence. If anything is attached to you, such as a treat bag, or attached to your dog, or attached to the leash (other than the dog and you), it may be considered a training aid and may result in a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

- 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, be long enough to provide adequate slack and must be clipped to the collar. Using a harness, incorrect collar or leash, or not using one at all will result in a non-qualifying (NQ) handler error. Anything hanging from the collar will be penalized.
- Q.** How do I perform the signs?
- A.** Refer to the [Regulations](#) for the most detailed information. Read the performance requirements for each sign in the back of the book. **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. The judge must be able to see each of the signs in relation to the dog's performance of that sign.
- Q.** Are dogs that limp, have a bandage, and/or whose coat is dyed allowed to participate?
- A.** No, these dogs may not participate. Don't submit a video under these conditions as it will result in a non-qualifying score (NQ).
- Q.** Who views the videos and how is this different than a regular trial?
- A.** Each video is reviewed by an approved AKC Rally judge. You and your dog are judged the same as you would be at a regular trial. The main differences are that you are responsible for setting up the course according to the course map, capturing a clear video performance and submitting the entry correctly. Each qualifying score counts as a leg towards the Rally 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.** In addition to what is addressed in this FAQ document, please refer to the AKC Rally® Regulations, Chapter 2 and the Glossary, pages 44 and 45 by clicking this link. [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 inside or outside, at a park, or at a building. Be sure to follow local, state, and CDC guidelines.
- Q.** Are there specific requirements for ring size, spacing between signs and/or where to set the signs?
- A.** Set the course up according to the course map. **Signs** must be placed to the handlers right, and change of direction signs are placed in front of the handler. There is not a required ring size for this pilot program but make sure you have enough room to perform the course correctly. The spacing between each sign is up to the exhibitor, except that spacing between the pylons is required to be 6-8 feet. You must use signs, the signs must be obvious in the video, and the judge must be able to see (not read) each of the signs as you and your dog are performing that sign. Incorrect course set up and signs out of view of the camera will result in handler error penalties.
- 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, but the judge must be able to *see* that each sign is correctly placed. Check your video before you submit it. If the judge can't see the sign you are performing points will be deducted.

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

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

**A.** If the camera is in a stationary position, then yes, use the camera placement on the course map. Elevate the camera to approximately eye level. 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.** Does the camera have to show all the signs all the time on the course?

**A.** If the camera is stationary, yes. If you have someone videotaping the performance, zooming in and out is fine. Check your video before you submit it to avoid penalties.

**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.** What are the video requirements and what settings should be used?

**A.** The video must be clear, not blurry. Minimum required resolution is 720p HD. **The video must be continuous, no pauses, no edits and must contain audio.** Outside background noises are expected. Please do not add music to the performance. The judge must be able to hear the sounds closest to the camera. Check the camera settings. Set the camera in landscape/normal mode. Do not use the selfie mode as this will flip the course and will result in a non-qualifying score. Start recording at least 5 seconds before starting the course, and don't stop the recording until 10 seconds after the team crosses the finish sign.

We hope you enjoy the virtual Rally opportunity. Enjoy your dogs and remember, good sportsmanship is when people who are playing or watching a sport treat each other with respect. This includes players, coaches, and officials.

### **Scoring Abbreviations:**

T = touch	HE = handler error
B = barking	IT = dog interfering with handler
LP = luring / pleading	LT = lack of teamwork
OP = out of position	LB = lack of briskness, adapting
SR = slow response	LC = lack of control
TL = tight lead	RT = retry of a sign -3 points
PS = poor sit	IP = incorrectly performed sign -10 points