

## **SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED FROM JUDGES AND HANDLERS FOR CHANGES TO THE A.N.K.C. RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF RALLY OBEDIENCE TRIALS**

*Received from Lorna Piper*

**General** - That Canine Councils in other States/Territories recognise the dispensations/allowances permitted by a fellow State/Territory. That such handlers be issued with a standard ANKC card/letter stipulating the dispensation/allowance.

**Rationale:** Applications are made to the home Canine Council and the matter is investigated and discussed, if the dispensation is allowed then this should be recognised by other Canine Councils to bring a consistency between States/Territories and to prevent disappointment and restriction of the persons with a disability to compete interstate.

*Received from Lorna Piper*

### **Page 3 Table of Contents**

#### **CLASSES**

Insert - '*Rally Masters Class - RM*' after Rally Advanced Excellent Title RAE

Insert - *Rally Novice Pairs - RNP*

*Rally Advanced Pairs - RAP*

*Rally Excellent Pairs - REP*

*Rally Masters Pairs - RMP*

*Received from Lorna Piper*

### **Page 5**

#### **TITLES**

##### **Class Titles**

[ **Insert 80 Delete 70**] in all existing classes Note, qualifying score in Masters 85 points or more *Amend - R.A.E.* – signifying Rally Advanced Excellent in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received [ **Insert eight (8) - Delete ten (10)**] qualifying scores of [ **Insert 80 Delete 70**] or more points in the Rally Advanced B Class and the Rally Excellent B Class at the same trial.

**Rationale: This is very repetitive; decreasing the number of classes to enter will reduce the expense of the title and encourage more participation. Possible 7 rather than 8**

*Insert - R.M. signifying Rally Masters in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received seven (7) qualifying scores of **85** or more points in the Rally Masters Class*

Only the Highest Rally Obedience Title awarded to the dog will be used after the name of the dog. **INSERT - RM and RAE titles may appear together after the name of the dog.**

**Rationale: Rally Masters and RAE become two different streams of Rally Obedience**

*Received from Julie Morrison*

## **Page 5 & 7**

Rally Advanced Excellent Title – R.A.E.

### **Currently Reads;**

In order to receive the RAE title, a dog must qualify ten times in both the Advanced B and Excellent B class at the same trial.

### **Change to;**

*(Replace the Rally Advanced Excellent Title with Rally Masters Title);*

*In order to achieve the Rally Masters title, a dog must achieve a score of 85 points or more in the Rally Excellent B class at ten trials.*

### **Rationale;**

*I think the highest title you can achieve should reflect a consistently higher level of performance. For this reason, I think the minimum score should be higher than the 'qualifying score'.*

*As the highest title should follow on from the highest class, I cannot see the benefit of a dog doing both advanced and excellent to qualify. Excellent is more difficult than advanced so have the qualifying scores come from the Excellent class. It seems it is more an endurance test at the moment. As many trials are double trials, this results in 4 classes a day. I have seen over zealous handlers on hot days push their dogs far too hard. I think quality of performance should be much more important than quantity of performance.*

## **Page 5 RALLY OBEDIENCE – Titles:**

(Proposal 1 of 2 for new champion title)

### **Currently Reads:**

#### **TITLES**

##### ***Class Titles:***

All dogs eligible to be entered in Rally Obedience Trials in accordance with these Rules shall be eligible to receive Class Title Certificates upon qualification and application.

The Canine Control will receive applications for the use of the letters:

**R.N.** – signifying Rally Novice in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received three (3) qualifying scores of 70 or more points in the Rally

Novice Class

**R.A.** – signifying Rally Advanced in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received three (3) qualifying scores of 70 or more points in the Rally Advanced Class

**R.E.** – signifying Rally Excellent in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received three (3) qualifying scores of 70 or more points in the Rally Excellent Class

**R.A.E.** – signifying Rally Advanced Excellent in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received ten (10) qualifying scores of 70 or more points in the Rally Advanced B Class and the Rally Excellent B Class at the same trial. Only the Highest Rally Obedience Title awarded to the dog will be used after the name of the dog.

Applications for RN, RA, RE and RAE titles must be accompanied by Trial Certificates indicating qualifying scores under at least two different Judges.

Applications for all titles must be accompanied by the prescribed fee (where applicable) and, upon approval, a Certificate will be issued to the applicant authorising the use of the letters concerned.

### ***Change to:***

#### **TITLES**

##### ***Class Titles:***

*All dogs eligible to be entered in Rally Obedience Trials in accordance with these Rules shall be eligible to receive Class Title Certificates upon qualification and application.*

*The Canine Control will receive applications for the use of the letters:*

**R.N.** – signifying Rally Novice in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received three (3) qualifying scores of 70 or more points in the Rally

*Novice Class*

**R.A.** – signifying Rally Advanced in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received three (3) qualifying scores of 70 or more points in the Rally Advanced Class

**R.E.** – signifying Rally Excellent in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which

*shall be certified by Judges to have received three (3) qualifying scores of 70 or more points in the Rally Excellent Class*

**R.A.E.** – *signifying Rally Advanced Excellent in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received ten (10) qualifying scores of 70 or more points in the Rally Advanced B Class and the Rally Excellent B Class at the same trial. Only the Highest Rally Obedience Title awarded to the dog will be used after the name of the dog.*

*Applications for RN, RA, RE and RAE titles must be accompanied by Trial Certificates indicating qualifying scores under at least two different Judges.*

*Applications for all titles must be accompanied by the prescribed fee (where applicable) and, upon approval, a Certificate will be issued to the applicant authorising the use of the letters concerned.*

**R.CH.** – *signifying Rally Champion in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received qualifying scores of 70 or more points in the Rally Excellent B class, with an overall total of 200 or more points being allocated from a scale of points for qualifying scores.*

Page 7 - CLASSES (Continued from page 6)

**Add after the Rally Advanced Excellent Title – R.A.E. description on page 7**

**Rally Obedience Champion Title – R.CH.**

*Upon qualifying for the Rally Advanced Excellent Title, qualifying scores may be accumulated from the Rally Excellent B Class totalling a further 200 points allocated from a scale of points for qualifying scores.*

*The scale being:*

*70 – 80 = 5 points, 81- 90 = 10 points, 91 – 95 = 15 points, 96 – 100 = 20 points to earn the Rally Champion (R.CH) Title.*

*In order to receive the RCH Title, a dog must qualify in the Rally Excellent B Class and gain 200 points allocated from the scale of points for qualifying scores. The RCH Title will appear at the end of the dog's name.*

*In the case of dogs which have attained Qualifying Certificates towards the Championship title prior to 1 January 2016, those Qualifying Certificates achieved in the 6 months prior may be counted in accordance with the new rules effective 1 January 2016.*

**Rationale:**

*Rally does not yet have a Champion Title and there is great interest in there being a higher title to achieve.*

Received from Melissa Ferabend

(Proposal 2 of 2 for new champion title)

## **Currently Reads:**

### **TITLES**

#### ***Class Titles:***

All dogs eligible to be entered in Rally Obedience Trials in accordance with these Rules shall be eligible to receive Class Title Certificates upon qualification and application.

The Canine Control will receive applications for the use of the letters:

**R.N.** – signifying Rally Novice in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received three (3) qualifying scores of 70 or more points in the Rally Novice Class

**R.A.** – signifying Rally Advanced in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received three (3) qualifying scores of 70 or more points in the Rally Advanced Class

**R.E.** – signifying Rally Excellent in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received three (3) qualifying scores of 70 or more points in the Rally Excellent Class

**R.A.E.** – signifying Rally Advanced Excellent in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received ten (10) qualifying scores of 70 or more points in the Rally Advanced B Class and the Rally Excellent B Class at the same trial. Only the Highest Rally Obedience Title awarded to the dog will be used after the name of the dog.

Applications for RN, RA, RE and RAE titles must be accompanied by Trial Certificates indicating qualifying scores under at least two different Judges.

Applications for all titles must be accompanied by the prescribed fee (where applicable) and, upon approval, a Certificate will be issued to the applicant authorising the use of the letters concerned.

#### ***Change to:***

### **TITLES**

#### ***Class Titles:***

*All dogs eligible to be entered in Rally Obedience Trials in accordance with these Rules shall be eligible to receive Class Title Certificates upon qualification and application.*

*The Canine Control will receive applications for the use of the letters:*

**R.N.** – *signifying Rally Novice in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received three (3) qualifying scores of 70 or more points in the Rally Novice Class*

**R.A.** – *signifying Rally Advanced in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received three (3) qualifying scores of 70 or more points in the Rally Advanced Class*

**R.E.** – *signifying Rally Excellent in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received three (3) qualifying scores of 70 or more points in the Rally Excellent Class*

**R.A.E.** – *signifying Rally Advanced Excellent in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received ten (10) qualifying scores of 70 or more points in the Rally Advanced B Class and the Rally Excellent B Class at the same trial. Only the Highest Rally Obedience Title awarded to the dog will be used after the name of*

*the dog.*

*Applications for RN, RA, RE and RAE titles must be accompanied by Trial Certificates indicating qualifying scores under at least two different Judges.*

*Applications for all titles must be accompanied by the prescribed fee (where applicable) and, upon approval, a Certificate will be issued to the applicant authorising the use of the letters concerned.*

***R.CH. – signifying Rally Champion in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified by Judges to have received ten (10) qualifying scores of 90 or more points in the Rally Excellent B Class.***

*Page 7 - CLASSES (Continued from page 6)*

***Add after the Rally Advanced Excellent Title – R.A.E. description on page 7***

***Rally Obedience Champion Title – R.CH.***

*Upon qualifying for the Rally Advanced Excellent Title, thereafter gains a further ten (10) qualifying scores from the Rally Excellent B Class of 90 points or higher.*

*In order to receive the RCH Title, a dog must qualify in the Rally Excellent B Class ten (10) times with all scores being 90 or higher. The RCH Title will appear at the end of the dog's name.*

*In the case of dogs which have attained Qualifying Certificates towards the Championship title prior to 1 January 2016, those Qualifying Certificates achieved in the 6 months prior may be counted in accordance with the new rules effective 1 January 2016.*

***Rationale:***

*Rally does not yet have a Champion Title and there is great interest in there being a higher title to achieve.*

*Received from Christine Geary*

**(page 6)**

**Classes**

***Proposed item: Addition of a Novice B class.***

*Justification: Based on the last year, there are a lot of dogs and handlers who on completing the Novice title are unable, or unwilling to progress to the Advanced Class. This is largely due to 2 main factors –*

- The dog being unable to perform off lead*
- Unwillingness to jump the dog due to age or other reasons.*

*This will allow dogs to continue in a gentle ring sport up into old age as well as providing additional revenue to Dogs Victoria and clubs in the form of entries from handlers & dogs who might otherwise have not continued.*

*The addition might read something like this:*

### **Rally Novice B**

*This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Novice (RN) Title and may*

*continue to compete in this class indefinitely.*

*All exercises are judged on lead. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on lead.*

*This class is for competition only and does not lead to any title in its own right, as with Advanced B.*

*Received from Lorna Piper*

## **Page 7**

### **Honor Exercise [Insert u in spelling of honour throughout the rule book)**

After completing the course, each dog and Handler team may either re-enter through the finish gate, or they may proceed directly to the Honor Station. The dog must remain in the designated position to Honor the **[Insert -'next team for a maximum of three (3) minutes']** ~~[delete - next team's entire course]~~. This exercise must be performed on lead. For the Honor Exercise the Honor Steward will monitor each team, record the score and immediately report it to the Table Steward. ***A marker may be placed to indicate where the handler and dog should be positioned.***

***Rationale: To bring some consistency to the length of the Honor exercise and to prevent an excessive length of stay***

### **Rally Advanced Excellent Class - RAE**

In order to receive the RAE Title, a dog must qualify ~~[delete - ten times]~~ **[Insert - eight times under at least three different judges]** in both 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 ie: RAE2, RAE3 etc.

***Rationale: reduce the number of entries required for a title - expensive title. Three different judges to ensure a variety of course perspectives.***

## **NEW**

### **Rally Masters Class - RM**

In order to receive the RM Title, a dog must qualify seven (7) times with 85 points or more, under at least three (3) different judges. The RM 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 RM requirements ie: RM2, RM3 etc.

***Rationale: To provide another path for dogs that cannot jump, also to offer the opportunity for more exercises that require additional skills.***

## Page 6-7

### CLASSES

#### ***New Classes***

##### **Rally Masters**

This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Excellent (RE) Title and may continue to compete in this class indefinitely. All exercises are judged off lead. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on lead. Rally Masters must have between seventeen (17) – twenty-two (22) stations (start & finish not included) with no more than nine (9) stationary exercises per class. Of these stations there must be at least at least seven (7) Excellent and Masters stations. There will be no Honor exercise or Jumps in this class.

***Rationale: To enable a dog unable to jump to continue to participate in Rally Obedience and to bring a new title to Rally Obedience***

##### **Rally Obedience Pairs**

***Rationale: To allow more availability to Rally Obedience, to continue to enhance rally obedience, opening a whole new aspect - increasing team work and development of skills. Following the concept of Rally in that it is 'fun' for the dogs and handlers***

##### **Rally Novice Pairs (R.N.P.)**

For Dogs six months of age or over and of either sex which are not eligible for the title of Rally Novice Pairs(RNP). Under no circumstances except where an application for a RNP Title has been rejected on a technicality, shall a dog which has competed in a Rally Advanced Pairs Class be eligible to compete in the Rally Novice Pairs Class. All exercises are judged on lead, and all dogs must enter and leave the ring on lead.

Rally Novice must have between ten (10) – fifteen (15) stations (start and finish not included) with no more than five (5) stationary exercises per class. ***Two teams will work the course there will be at least two changes of teams during the completion of the course. All retries will be completed by the other team. If a station is identified by the judge as being an IP the judge may inform the team and then the other team must take over. There will be only two retries allowed on the course. Teams can give verbal assistance to each other while on the course. Should both teams fail to correctly perform a station it will be regarded as an IP - no further attempts shall be made.***

Received from Lorna Piper

### **Rally Advanced Pairs Class – R.A.P**

This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Novice Pairs (RNP) Title but are not eligible for the Rally Advanced Pairs (RAP) Title. All exercises are judged off lead. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on lead. Rally Advanced Pairs must have between twelve (12) – seventeen (17) stations (start & finish not included) with no more than seven (7) stationary exercises per class. One (1) jump must be used in this class.

***There will be three changeovers. If a station is identified by the judge as being an IP the judge will inform the team and then the other team must take over. There will be only two retries allowed. Teams can give verbal assistance to each other while on the course. Should both teams fail the station it will be regarded as an IP - no further attempts shall be made.***

Received from Lorna Piper

### **Rally Excellent Pairs Class – R.E.P**

#### **Rally Excellent Pairs**

This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Advanced Pairs (RAP) Title, but are not eligible for the Rally Excellent Pairs (REP) Title. All exercises are judged off lead except the Honor Exercise. Both dogs are to complete the Honor exercise at a distance at least 1.5m apart. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on lead. Rally Excellent Pairs must have between fifteen (15) – twenty (20) stations (start and finish not included) with no more than nine (9) stationary exercises per class. Two (2) jumps must be used in this class with each dog successfully completing a jump. Jumps may be any jump or any combination of the jumps that may be used as standard equipment in ANKC Ltd Obedience Classes i.e.: Broad Jump, Solid Jump, Bar. Jumps may be used consecutively on the course, this will indicate a forced change of team.

***There must be four changeovers, there are no IP's permitted - a station that has been attempted and not performed successfully by either team on their attempts will deem the run non-qualifying. The judge does not notify the competitors if there is an IP, team mates are responsible for the performance***

Received from Lorna Piper

### **Rally Masters Pairs Class - R.M.P.**

This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Excellent Pairs (R.E.P.) Title and may continue to compete in this class indefinitely. All exercises are judged off lead. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on lead. Rally Masters must have between seventeen (17) – twenty-two (22) stations (start & finish not included) with no more than nine (9) stationary exercises per class. Of these stations there must be at least at least seven (7) Excellent and Masters stations. There will be no Honor exercise in this class. ***There must be four changeovers. An exercise that has been attempted and not performed successfully by either team will deem the run non-qualifying. The judge does not notify the competitors if there is an IP, team mates are responsible for the performance***

Received from Julie Morrison

## PROPOSED CHANGE 1

### **Page 7**

#### **Honor Exercise (Excellent Class)**

##### **Currently Reads:**

"An Honor Exercise must be included in the Rally Excellent Class".

##### ***Change to;***

*Delete the honor exercise from the Excellent Class*

##### ***Rationale;***

*I believe there are too many variables that cannot be consistently controlled in the Honor exercise;*

- Length of time. The speed of the dog on the course determines the length of the stay so not all dogs are in the stay position for the same amount of time. From past experience and observation, this means the honour dog can be in a stay anyway between approx. 2:30min to 4:00min. If the judge has chosen a sit stay than this can mean that some dogs may be doing a sit stay for longer than is required even in Open obedience.*
- Experience of Steward. In observing whether or not the honour dog completed the stay, we are relying on the knowledge / experience of the Steward. Whilst a clear break in position is easy to determine, rolling, creeping, fidgeting et can more subjective. A Steward's verbal description to the judge of what the dog did, may lead to the wrong decision. If the judge has not observed the honour dog's performance during the stay, it means that the judges decision is based on someone else's observation. As "failing to complete the Honour" leads to a non qualifying score, this has important ramifications.*

Received from Melissa Ferabend

### **Page 7**

#### **Rally Excellent Class – Exercise – Honour**

##### ***Currently reads:***

##### **Honour Exercise:**

An Honour Exercise must be included in the Rally Excellent Class. Prior to each class, the Judge will designate either the sit or the down for the Honour Exercise as well as the placement in the ring. The Handler will stand 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 team may either re-enter through the finish gate, or they may proceed directly to the Honor Station. The dog must remain in the designated position to Honor the next team's entire course. This exercise must be performed on lead. For the Honor Exercise the Honor Steward will monitor each team, record the score and immediately report it to the Table Steward

In the Honor Exercise when the dog is left in the down position a dog lying on its side (dead dog position) does not incur a non-qualifying score but rather a 3 point deduction The Honor exercise is included in the total count of exercises but is not included in the count of stationary exercises.

### ***Change to:***

### ***Honour Exercise:***

An Honour Exercise must be included in the Rally Excellent Class. Prior to each class, the Judge will designate either the sit or the down for the Honour Exercise as well as the placement in the ring. The Handler will stand facing the dog. The Honour 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 **Honour** Exercise.

After completing the course, each dog and Handler team may either re-enter through the finish gate, or they may proceed directly to the Honour Station. The dog must remain in the designated position to Honour the next team's entire course. **The dog is deemed to have successfully completed the honour exercise once a maximum of 2 minutes has elapsed, however the dog is to remain in position until the next team has completed the course.**

This exercise must be performed on lead. For the Honour Exercise the Honour Steward will monitor each team, record the score and immediately report it to the Table Steward In the Honour Exercise when the dog is left in the down position a dog lying on its side (dead dog position) does not incur a non-qualifying score but rather a 3 point deduction The Honour exercise is included in the total count of exercises but is not included in the count of stationary exercises.

### ***Rationale:***

The variation in speed between different teams navigating/performing the course is so big that one team may be in the honour position for a few seconds (if the dog leaves the ring) or for well over 4 minutes (if a team is slower) and the inconsistency is unfair on competitors. By having a maximum of 2 minutes should minimise the difference between those that have to remain for much longer periods of time and those that don't.

So as a result Page 26 – Appendix A – Rally Obedience Signs & Explanations would also need to be altered to reflect the change if necessary.

Received from Lorna Piper

## Page 7

### RINGS

Unless special permission of the Canine Control is obtained, the minimum size of an outdoor ring must be fifteen (15) metres by twenty five [delete (25)] [insert 30] metres. If the trial is held indoors the ring shall be a minimum of fifteen (15) metres by [delete (15)] [insert 25]. The non-slip floor covering or ground surface must be the same as would be suitable for an ANKC Ltd Obedience Trial

**Rationale - If the suggested new exercises are accepted then more ring space will be required to allow the design of courses.**

Received from Christine Geary

## Page 8

### **Proposed Item: Deletion of the necessity to give commands in English**

#### **EXHIBITORS AND HANDLERS Commands and Signals**

*"All verbal commands must be in the English Language unless approved otherwise by the Judge."*

*I believe this is redundant. Australia is a multi-cultural country. This makes no more sense than if I chose to use the English word "banana" as my "Heel" word (which by the current rules would be legal). I see no reason to enforce this rule anymore and I believe it may be discriminatory to keep it.*

Received from Julie Morrison

## Page 9

### **Incorrectly Performed Station**

#### **Currently Reads;**

Where a team does not genuinely attempt all aspects of a station and then moves on to the next station, they will receive a non qualifying score (Amended EM#075-02/14)

#### **Change to;**

*Where a team does not attempt a station and moves on to the next station, they will receive a non qualifying score.*

#### **Rationale;**

*I think it almost impossible to establish an intent behind a handler's action. Some stations have many actions and it is easy for a nervous handler to simply forget. How can a judge*

*possibly know if the handler simply forgot an element (eg 1,2,3 step halt and they leave out the 2 step) or they intentionally left it out? It seems unfairly harsh that a handler would be given a non qualifying score if they simply forgot something. Certainly a non qualifying score is warranted if they walk straight past a station without even trying.*

Received from Lorna Piper

## Page 9

### Retry

. . . the Handler may choose to retry that station with a **[Delete three (3) Insert four (4)]** point deduction

***Rationale: Without a retry the perception is that there would have been a 10 point deduction, therefore a loss of 3 points is too small a proportion of the possible points gained. Perhaps it will encourage a competitor to consider the need for a retry more carefully***

*Insert paragraph - Any retry in Rally Pairs must be undertaken by the second team and not the team that faulted the exercise. Only one retry per station is permitted in Rally Pairs Classes.*

***Rationale: To cater for the inclusion of Pairs and to enhance the concept of working within a Pairs team***

Received from Christine Geary

## Page 9

**Note: No exercises specifically stating no retry allowed are mentioned further on in the rules.**

### Retry

“Retries are not allowed if a team has already committed an error that would result in a nonqualifying score for that station, or if it is specified in an exercise description that retries are not allowed.”

For example, It is assumed that a dislodged bar on a jump has no retry by most judges, however it is not specifically mentioned in the exercise description.

Likewise, a removed toy or food container in the Fig 8 exercise should have no retry available.

Received from Lorna Piper

## Page 10

### Qualifying Performance

To qualify, a dog and Handler team must receive a minimum score of **[delete 70 insert 80]** points out of a possible perfect score of 100 **Insert - in Advanced and Excellent. A minimum score of 85 points out of a possible perfect score of 100 in Masters.**

## **Page 10**

### **Ties**

#### **Currently Reads:**

##### ***Ties:***

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 will be Judged and timed again. Separating ties is only necessary to determine any awards made for a ring.

#### ***Change to:***

*Delete the words "**and a plus (+) after the score.**"*

##### **Ties:**

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 will be Judged and timed again. Separating ties is only necessary to determine any awards made for a ring.

##### ***Rationale:***

*Separating ties is determined by time to complete the course (unless it is the same) however it is also reflected in the place attained for any awards (generally First, Second, Third) as a direct result of the difference in that time so it is unnecessary to add a plus sign after the "faster" teams score.*

*Received from Lorna Piper*

## **Page 11**

### **Scoring**

#### ***[Insert - Scoring Masters***

##### ***3 point deduction***

***for the dog not sitting in front when performing stations 53 - Retrieve Article - Handler's Choice and 55 - Distance Control***

***1 point deduction if article dropped and immediately picked up***

***10 point deduction (IP) if the dog does not give retrieve article to hand***

***N/Q score if retrieve article is visible at any time other than when in use for the retrieve]***

Received from Christine Geary

## **Page 11**

### **Scoring (all Classes): Clarification required.**

The difference between "touching a jump" (1 point) and "hitting a jump (10 points) is a bit subjective. I believe this warrants further clarification.

Received from Julie Morrison

## **Page 12**

### **Charts (Judging)**

#### **Currently reads;**

Individual score sheets (as shown in Appendix) will be provided by the Affiliate conducting the trial and made available to each Handler.

#### ***Change to;***

*A Penciller may be provided to the judge to record the points deducted on the score sheets as the competitor is on the course. The Penciller may be provided in place of a third Steward.*

#### ***Rationale;***

*As there is a lot happening in Rally in a short period of time, it is very important the judge views the handler and dog for the entire course. Even looking down at the score sheet momentarily can lead to a judge not observing something. Some judges also like to use codes with their scoring. This is most appreciated by Handlers as it gives more information as to why points were lost. However, codes take even more time. Many judges are no doubt skilled at being able to write whilst not looking down but not all judges are. Having a penciller walk beside the judge means that this person records the points deducted and any code the judge may want to give. The Penciller could quite possibly be the timing steward as well.*

*At the completion of the course, the Penciller would hand the score sheet back to the judge who would record the time and total the score (record on judges sheet) and then hand to the competitor.*

*The use of a Penciller would be optional for both club and Judge.*

Received from Lorna Piper

## Page 12

### GUIDE TO JUDGES

[insert paragraph] *There must be a minimum distance of 4 m between stations or after completion of station*

Received from Christine Geary

## Page 13

### Item: Correction in accordance with recently amended rule for sign 40.

#### Current wording

##### **RING PROCEDURE**

"Except for exercises requiring entry with the sign on the left, exercises are performed near the designated signs, either directly in front, or in the front and to the left of said signs. (Sign 20 is performed just past the sign)."

#### Corrected wording

"Except for exercises requiring entry with the sign on the left, exercises are performed near the designated signs, either directly in front, or in the front and to the left of said signs. (Signs 20 and 40 are performed just past the sign)."

Received from Lorna Piper

## Page 13

### Equipment

#### Signs and Holders

**Delete Twenty (20) Insert Twenty-two (22)** exercise sign holders are required plus one for each Start and Finish signs

*Insert - Masters Retrieve Article must not make a noise ie no squeaky toys, otherwise may take any form.*

Received from Lorna Piper

## Page 14

### Calculation of the Height and Width of Jumps

*[ Insert paragraph - The jump height/width for the Pairs classes will be set at the lower height of the pair*

***NOTE dogs can only jump ONE level down from their height ie a dog that generally jumps 400 may compete with a dog jumping 300 - the jumps will be set for the 300 height. Dogs are not permitted to jump higher than their jump height ie 200 dog cannot jump 300)***

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Appendix A - Rally Obedience Signs & Explanations**

#### General Regulations:

- Heeling is from sign to sign in a continuous performance. Heeling from sign to sign is Judged. A minimum deduction will be one point.
- Handlers may praise and pat their dogs, repeating commands and signals if necessary.
- The Novice Class is performed on lead, using exercises 1-31. It consists of 10-15 exercises (not including Start and Finish), uses a maximum of 5 stationary exercises.
- The Advanced Class is performed off lead, using exercises 1-45. It consists of 12-17 exercises (not including Start and Finish) uses a maximum of 7 stationary exercises and requires one jump.
- The Excellent Class is performed off lead (except for the Honor) using exercises 1 - **[delete 50 insert 53]**. It consists of 15-20 exercises (not including Start and Finish) a maximum of **[delete 7 insert 8]** stationary exercises and requires two jumps.

**RATIONALE: To allow for the inclusion of two additional exercises which are stationary exercises**

- The Masters Class is performed off lead (except for the Honor) using exercises 1 - 58, Excluding Exercises 34 Send Over Jump - Handler Passes By and 52 (old 50) Honor. It consists of 17-22 exercises (not including Start and Finish) a maximum of 9 stationary exercises. Of these stations there must be at least at least seven (7) Excellent/Masters stations.

**Rationale: To encourage further skill development and to allow dogs that can no longer jump to continue to compete. Permitting nine stationary exercises allows for the new exercises for the Masters class of which three are stationary**

- **Insertion of Pairs information as required ie number of changeovers, stations etc**
- Exercises marked with an asterisk (\*) may be used more than once on a Rally course.
- Scoring – Each team begins with 100 points. A qualifying performance is a score of **[delete 70 insert 80]** points or better and all stations must be attempted.
- The performance is timed.

Received from Lorna Piper

## Page 15

### Exercise 34 Send Over Jump - Handler Passes By

#### Insert Paragraph

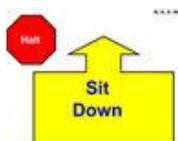
That the jump upright be set approximately 1.5m left of the path of the dog in Advanced class. Excellent class jumps to be set approximately 2.5 m left of the path of the dog

**Rationale:** to comply with the exercise which stipulates SEND the dog, which implies that the jump is out of the path of the dog, the increased distance highlights the increasing skill level between Advanced and Excellent.

Received from Christine Geary

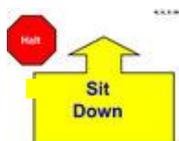
## Page 16

Sign update **4. Halt – Sit – Down**



Sign currently reads

If reading literally this means 2 x sits. As HALT implies a SIT, remove the word SIT from the sign and the sign name to bring it into line with all signs requiring an initial HALT.



Should read

**4. Halt– Down**

Received from Christine Geary

## Page 22

Addition: Regarding retries – see justification above

**"34. \*Send Over Jump - Handler Passes By** - While moving with the dog in heel position, the Handler directs the dog to take the jump as the Handler passes by the jump without any pause, hesitation or stopping. The Handler may increase speed or run while passing by the jump. When the dog has completed the jump in the proper direction, it is called to heel position and the team continues to the next exercise."

**Additional wording.** "Should the jump bar be dislodged, there will be no retry allowed for this exercise."

## Page 22

### **Deletion & clarification( page 23)**

#### *Current wording*

**"36. Halt - Stand Dog - Walk Around** - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler stands the dog commands and/or signals the dog to stay as the Handler walks around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The Handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station. In the Advanced Class, the Handler may touch the dog, move forward to stand the dog, and may pose the dog as in the show ring. The Handler may not physically assist the dog to move into the stand. (Stationary exercise)"

#### **Proposed wording**

**36. Halt - Stand Dog - Walk Around** - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler stands the dog commands and/or signals the dog to stay as the Handler walks around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The Handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station. In the Advanced Class **only**, the Handler may touch the dog **and may** move forward to stand the dog, **and may pose the dog as in the show ring**. The Handler may not physically assist the dog to move into the stand.(Stationary exercise).

**Justification:** This removed the assumption that moving forward is allowable in the Excellent class (previously not specified). The 'posing of the dog as in the show ring' is confusing and has no value in this explanation.

## Page 24

### **Clarification & extra penalty 39. Offset Figure 8 –**

#### **Current wording**

"This exercise requires two pylons or posts placed about 2.45 – 3.00 metres apart, around which the team will perform a complete Figure 8, crossing the centre line three times. Two distractions will be arranged to the sides of the Figure 8 about 1.55 – 1.85 metres apart.

Entry may be between the pylons or posts and the distraction on either side. The distractions will consist of two securely covered containers with tempting dog treats; however, dog toys may replace one or both containers, or may be placed next to the containers. The exercise sign may be placed on or near the cone where entry is made into the Offset Figure 8."

I believe the purpose of this exercise is that the dog not be tempted by the distractions. At the moment, the "assumed" deductions are 1 point for a touch, 3 points for a dislodge and IP for a removal. I don't think the current penalties are hard enough with this in mind, and are really not specified anyway.

I think the penalties should be as follows, and be documented specifically in the rules (whatever is decided)

Touch (no dislodgement)– 3 points

Dislodge Distraction -(pickup and put down) IP, (retry allowed)

Removal - (pickup and put down further than 1 metre away from original position) NQ.

It should also state that for a removal, no retry is allowed.

*Received from Christine Geary*

## **Page 25**

### **Clarification: All signs requiring an initial HALT, -Additional moves.**

A dog must not make any additional positions between the designated moves required. For example, a dog doing sign **46. Halt - Stand – Down** should not be allowed to do an additional SIT after the first one as some dogs do when self correcting a bad position, or when the handler signals them to come closer. I have seen many dogs do this without penalty, at the highest levels. I believe the penalty (if any) for this should be specified. My suggestion is IP.

*Received from Lorna Piper*

## **Renumber Exercise 50 to 53**

**Rationale: to allow for the additional exercises in Excellent class thereby keeping the Honor exercise as the last one before Masters exercises are listed**

*Received from Lorna Piper*

### **Insert new exercise 50**

#### **Stationary exercise Distance Down**

The handler to command and/or signal the dog to stand leave the dog to a distance not less than 3 metres, turn, halt command/signal the dog to drop, then return to the side of the dog and continue on.

**Rationale: To add additional exercises to Excellent to allow for a greater variation between classes**

*Received from Lorna Piper*

### **Insert new exercise 51**

#### **Stationary exercise Recall**

The handler to command/signal the dog to sit and stay then leave the dog to a minimum distance of 5 metres, about turn, halt and signal/command the dog to come, the dog shall sit in front of the handler, the handler returns to the right side of the dog, may be pivot return or return behind. No finish

**Rationale: To add additional exercises to Excellent to allow for a greater variation between classes as well as including a valuable skill for a dog (ie return to handler). No finish required as there are finishes in previous exercises**

Received from Lorna Piper

## **Insert new exercise 52**

### ***Circle Spin at Heel***

The dog to complete a circle spin away from the heel position and then to return to heel, handler does not stop moving

**Rationale: Adds a fun movement to the heel position, this movement is possible for all breeds of dogs.**

Received from Lorna Piper

## **Exercise 54**

### ***Stationary exercise Retrieve Article - Handler's Choice***

The handler to halt with the dog sitting at the heel position, the handler will then throw the article at least 4metres the dog will be sent to retrieve the article returning it to hand while sitting in front of the handler. The retrieve article must hidden from the dogs view unless in use.

**Rationale: Additional exercises required for the new Masters class. No finish as the exercise is complex enough**

Received from Lorna Piper

## **Exercise 55**

### ***Right Side Heeling Three Steps***

While heeling, the handler commands or signals the dog to change sides and the dog will heel at least 3 steps, without first stopping on the right hand side, then return to the left and continues heeling forward. The dog may be sent to the right in any manner so long as the team does not stop forward movement (ie weave through legs, send behind, flip across front)

**Rationale: Additional exercises required for the new Masters class. Also a move away from traditional obedience to something new and different to challenge dog and handler at a higher level. No finish as the exercise is complex enough**

Received from Lorna Piper

## **Exercise 56**

### ***Stationary Exercise - Distance Control***

The handler to command/signal the dog to stand and stay the handler will then leave the dog to a minimum of 4 metres, then signal the dog to down and then to come. Handler returns to the dog and pauses in the heel position before moving forward.

**Rationale: Additional exercises required for the new Masters class. No finish as the exercise is complex enough**

*Received from Lorna Piper*

### **Exercise 57**

#### **Stationary Exercise - Drop on Recall**

The dog and handler to halt with dog sitting at heel, the handler will then command/signal the dog to stay and leave to a distance of approximately 10 metres, the dog must down at least 3m from the handler. Handler returns to the dog and pauses in the heel position before moving forward.

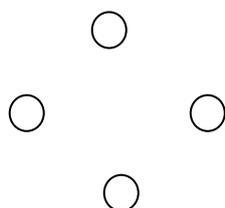
***Rationale: Additional exercises required for the new Masters class***

*Received from Lorna Piper*

### **Exercise 58**

#### **Four Cone Fig 8**

Four cones to be placed in a square each 1.5m from the centre point. The team must negotiate each opposite pair of cones as a figure 8. Would act as a change of direction



***Rationale: Additional exercise for Masters class that will also demand thought and experience to negotiate.***

*Received from Lorna Piper*

## **NEW STATIONS**

### **Exercise 59**

**Moving Down - Walk Around Dog** - While heeling and without pausing, the handler will down the dog and walk around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The handler must pause in heel position after returning to the dog. Dog must move forward from the down position

### **Exercise 60**

**Moving Sit - Walk Around Dog** - While heeling and without pausing, the handler will sit the dog and walk around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The handler must pause in heel position after returning to the dog. Dog must move forward from the sit position

**Page 26**

**Appendix A – Rally Obedience Signs & Explanations-**

**Sign 49. Back up 3 Steps**

**Currently Reads:**

While heeling, the Handler reverses direction walking backward at least 3step, without first stopping, then continues heeling forward. The dog moves backward with the Handler and maintains heel position throughout the exercise without sitting.

***Change to:***

*While heeling, the Handler reverses direction walking backward at least **3 steps, only bringing their feet together for less than one second before immediately commencing the backward steps**, then continues heeling forward. The dog moves backward with the Handler and maintains heel position throughout the exercise without sitting.*

***Rationale:***

*On Page 5 in the Introduction has:*

*"The chief objective of Rally is to provide a fast-moving and motivational sport for both Handler and dog that demonstrates a Handler and dog's competency in basic Obedience exercises without requiring exact precision for success."*

*The key words being "without exact precision" - We encourage our dogs to heel forward and remain in heel position but it is difficult to walk backwards without first stopping that forward motion so by allowing the feet to come together for a split second it sets the handler and dog up to better perform the exercise.*

Also fix "3step" to 3 steps