**REVIEW OF RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF RALLY OBEDIENCE TRIALS**

1. **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**1.1 DOGS SA**

**Proposal:** Number the TABLE OF CONTENTS, and use the same numbering sequence for all sections, clauses and sub-clauses within the document.

**Rationale**: No small task, but will benefit all in future.

**1.2 DOGS SA**

**Proposal:** Use exactly the same wording for the headings (including caps, spaces etc.) for all sections, clauses and sub-clauses within the body of the document as has been selected for the TABLE OF CONTENTS.

**Rationale:** Will provide considerable benefit for future reviews.

1. **GLOSSARY**

**2.1 DOGS VIC**

**Proposal:** Change the Discipline Name from Rally O, or Rally Obedience, to simply “Rally”. We have Obedience Trials, and we should have Rally Trials.

**Rationale:**

Too confusing to have 3 names especially when one name (Rally) makes much more sense than the other two.

Rally O sounds like an English custom of hunting with hounds. Rally Obedience seems over the top and is very confusing as it is really stating two dog sports.

The current Rules sometimes use the term Rally, and other times Rally Obedience. “Rally” is used approximately 67 times, “Rally Obedience” is used approximately 17 times and “Rally O” is NOT used at all.

It is generally accepted by the handlers who trial under these Rules that they are doing Rally, not Rally Obedience, or Rally O. All those involved in the sport say Rally and not Rally Obedience or Rally O.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

**3.1 DOGS SA**

**Current:** 2nd sentence

Dogs who participate in Rally are dogs that have been trained and conditioned to compete at Novice level and in the presence of other dogs.

**Proposal:**

Dogs ***which*** compete in Rally are dogs that have been trained and conditioned to ***work with their handler***, and in the presence of other dogs.

**Rationale:** “who” is not accepted when referred to animals – only persons. This sentence is somewhat odd – Novice what??

1. **TITLES**

**4.1 DOGS TAS**

**Class Titles and Qualifying Performance:**

**R.N.** – signifying Rally Novice - Three (3) qualifying scores of **75** points or more must be earned under at least two different Judges in Novice class to earn a title.

**Proposal**:

R.N. – signifying Rally Novice - Five (5) qualifying scores of 75 points or more must be earned under at least three (3) different Judges in Novice class to earn a title.

 **4.2 DOGS TAS**

**R.A.** – signifying Rally Advanced - Three (3) qualifying scores of **80** points or more must be earned under at least two different judges in Advanced Class to earn a title.

**Proposal:**

R.A. – signifying Rally Advanced - Six (6) qualifying scores of 80 points or more must be earned under at least three (3) different Judges in Advanced class to earn a title.

**4.3 DOGS TAS**

**R.E.** – signifying Rally Excellent - Five (5) qualifying scores of **80** points or more must be earned under at least two different Judges in Excellent class to earn a title.

**Proposal:**

Proposal changes Class Titles and Qualifying Performance

R.E. – signifying Rally Excellent - Eight (8) qualifying scores of 80 points or more must be earned under at least three (3) different Judges in Novice class to earn a title.

After the first set of eight (8) qualifying scores, each succeeding eight (8) qualifying scores shall qualify for a multiplier suffix e.g. sixteen (16) qualifying scores for RE may be awarded RE2, twenty-four (24) qualifying scores for RE may be awarded RE3 etc.

Once a dog has competed in the Rally Masters class, Multiplier suffixes in RE will no longer be earned.

**4.4 DOGS TAS**

**R.M.** – signifying Rally Master - Seven (7) qualifying scores of **85** points or more must be earned under at least three different judges in Master class to earn a title.

**Proposal:**

R.M. – signifying Rally Master - Ten (10) qualifying scores of 90 points or more must be earned under at least four (4) different judges in Master class to earn a title.

**4.5 DOGS TAS**

**Proposal: New Rule Multiplier suffixes for RM**

Multiplier suffixes for RM may be awarded for multiples of ten (10) certificates gained after the completion of the Rally Masters title e.g. 20 RM qualifications is equal to RM2

Applications may be made for any multiplier suffix title without requiring applications for any predecessor suffixes i.e. an owner may apply directly for RM7 without any requirement to apply and pay for RM2, RM3, RM4, RM5 and RM6 titles

After the RM Rally Masters title has been gained, any pass obtained of 95 or more points can go towards Rally Champion title, as well as the multiplier suffix. i.e. a score of 92 points will only go towards RM2, a score of 95 points during RM2 accumulation will also count towards RO.CH, a score of 95 points during RM6 accumulation will also count towards RO.CH. There is no timeframe to achieve Rally Champion while also accumulating multiplier suffixes, and there is no requirement to achieve Rally Champion and/or multiple suffixes Multiplier suffixes in RM may continue to be earned after a dog has achieved its RO Champion title.

**4.6 DOGS TAS**

**RO. CH** - signifying Rally Obedience Champion. The Member Body will receive applications for the title of Rally Obedience Champion RO.CH in connection with each dog which, having **gained** its Rally Master (RM) title, thereafter gains a further ten (10) qualifying scores of **90** or more points in the Rally Master Class under at least three (3) different Judges. **(Amended 02/16, EM#130)**

**Proposal:**

RO. CH - signifying Rally Obedience Champion. The Member Body will receive applications for the title of Rally Obedience Champion RO.CH in connection with each dog which, having gained its Rally Master (RM) title, thereafter gains a further ten (10) qualifying scores of 95 or more points in the Rally Master Class under at least four (4) different Judges. (Amended 02/16, EM#130).

**Rationale: Class Titles and Qualifying Performance**

Competitors are moving through the levels very quickly, and in some instances, new competitors are not spending enough time in the lower levels before gaining titles, and then being required to move up. At the moment, a competitor can title in 3 trials. This is not nearly enough time for the dog and/or handler to be exposed to a trial environment or gain the necessary skills to progress to the next level. Increasing the number of passes required in each class will help to ensure a more natural progression to higher classes.

Increasing the number of different judges from 2 to 3 (RN ,RA, RE), and 3 to 4 (RM, RO CH) so that there is more diversity to demonstrate a good working dog under a range of different judges

There appears to be a large contingent of Handlers who do not feel ready to step up to the Master Class once they've completed their Rally Excellent title. Allowing **multiple** accrual of RE suffixes would allow these competitors to keep trialling at RE level until such time they feel ready to progress to the Rally Master class.

Handlers should be allowed to accumulate multiple suffixes of the RM title to show for the work that has been put in to achieve these results. It also enables those who may not ever qualify for the champion title something to strive towards, and helps keep people in the sport, who may have dropped out after achieving their champion title because in their eyes there is nothing else to achieve

There is currently no provision for Rally Obedience champions to continue to trial in Rally-O once they have completed those requirements. Many teams would enjoy continuing in Rally-O for the fun and to also complement their training in traditional Obedience.

**4.7 DOGS TAS**

**Current title:**

**R.A.E.** – signifying Rally Advanced Excellent - To qualify for the title of RAE a dog and Handler team

must receive a minimum of five (5) qualifying scores, in both the Rally Advanced B & Rally Excellent

B Classes on the same day, of 80 points or more out of a possible perfect score of 100, under at least

two different Judges..

**Proposal:**

DELETE the R.A.E. title from Rally Obedience and dispense with the 'B' class.

Restructure the title system and offer multiple accrual opportunities for RE AND RM. RE for those handlers who don't feel they are quite ready to enter the Rally Master class but would like to keep trialling in a trial setting. RM for those who have completed their initial RM title and/or Rally O champion title and would like to keep trialling. This also provides continuity with other performance disciplines as teams can continue competing in Obedience Open class and also certain Agility classes.

**Rationale:**

The rationale for the 2016 rules review was to allow teams who had started toward an RAE title prior to the rule change effective date, to finish that RAE title, not to start anew or continue to accrue RAEs.

With the original rules, there were no further classes offered for titling in Rally-O and an RAE offered Handlers and dogs an opportunity to keep trialling in this discipline. But, since a Master Class and a Rally-O Champion title were added, there really is no need to keep this class title.

**4.8 DOGS QLD**

**Current Title:**

**R.A.E.** – signifying Rally Advanced Excellent – To qualify for the title of RAE a dog and Handler team must receive a minimum of five (5) qualifying scores, in both the Rally Advanced B and Rally Excellent B Classes at the same trial, of 80 points or more out of a possible perfect score of 100, under at least two different Judges.

**Proposal:**

R.A.E. – signifying Rally Advanced Excellent – To qualify for the title of RAE a dog and Handler team must receive a minimum of five (5) seven (7) qualifying scores, in both the Rally Advanced B and Rally Excellent B Classes at the same trial, of 80 points or more out of a possible perfect score of 100, under at least two different Judges.

**Rationale:**

Since the introduction of the Master and Champion titles the RAE title, at present, does not have the challenge originally intended. If this title is to be retained it needs to have more challenge to ensure its significance and value.

**4.9 DOGS NSW**

**RAE** – signifying Rally Advanced Excellent - To qualify for the title of RAE a dog and Handler team must receive a minimum of five (5) qualifying scores, in both the Rally Advanced B & Rally Excellent B Classes on the same day, of **80** points or more out of a possible perfect score of 100, under at least two different Judges*.*

**Proposal: R.A.E**. – signifying Rally Advanced Excellent - To qualify for the title of RAE a dog and Handler team must receive a minimum of five (5) qualifying scores, in both the ~~Rally Advanced B & Rally Excellent B~~ Rally Advanced and Rally Excellent Classes on the same day, of **80** points or more out of a possible perfect score of 100, under at least two different Judges*.*

**Rationale:** Remove separation of A and B classes in Advanced and Excellent

Due to lower numbers in Rally Classes, the cost of additional prizes is becoming a burden for clubs.

**4.10 DOGS NSW**

**Paragraph 2** - However for a period of twelve (12) months from the date when these Rules become effective, where a dog has already attained one or more qualifying scores of 80 points or more in both the Rally Advanced B and Rally Excellent B Classes on the same day towards a RAE title under the former Rules, these qualifications will be accepted towards the required total of five (5) double qualifying scores, provided that at least one double qualifying score of 80 points or more must be attained after these Rules become effective.

**Proposal:**

~~However for a period of twelve (12) months from the date when these Rules become effective, where a dog has already attained one or more qualifying scores of 80 points or more in both the Rally Advanced B and Rally Excellent B Classes on the same day towards a RAE title under the former Rules, these qualifications will be accepted towards the required total of five (5) double qualifying scores, provided that at least one double qualifying score of 80 points or more must be attained after these Rules become effective.~~

 **Rationale:** Delete paragraph which is no longer required.

**4.11 DOGS VIC**

**Proposal: Removal of B classes** and the introduction of Rally Grand Champion Title

It is noted that if the proposal to delete both B Classes is approved then consequential changes will be required in the rule book including the table of contents etc.

Also if the Rally Grand Champion Title is approved consequential changes will be required to the rule book also.

**4.12 DOGS SA**

**Current:** Only the highest Rally Obedience Title awarded to the dog will be used after the name of the dog or in the case of Rally Champion before the name of the dog. However, Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE) and Rally Master (RM) Titles may appear together after the name of the dog.

**Proposal:**

Only the highest Rally Obedience Title awarded to the dog will be used after the name of the dog or in the case of Rally Champion *or Rally Grand Champion* before the name of the dog. However, Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE) title may appear together after the name of the dog.

**New Title**

**RO.GrCh - signifying Rally Obedience Grand Champion**
*The Member Body will receive applications for the title of Rally Obedience Grand Champion (RO.GrCh) in connection with each dog which, having gained its Rally Champion (RO.CH) title, thereafter gains a further ten (10) qualifying scores of 90 or more points in the Rally Master Excellent Class under at least three (3) different Judges which must include a minimum of 5 first placings.*

**Rationale:**Obedience already has a GrCh title. Rally, being a form of obedience, quite simply, should be afforded the same pinnacle. Naturally, the GrCh title should represent the highest standard of rally training, hence the more difficult stations, but if a dog can complete a course of up to 25 stations and does it gaining scores of 90% or higher over 5 trials, that dog and handler deserves to be recognised for the high standard they have achieved.

Secondly, we are all looking for ways to keep more people interested in trialling. The addition of a RO.GrCh would certainly keep more people in the sport of Rally for a lot longer, as well as introduce more exciting and difficult training practices and we feel, would go a long way to raising its profile as a serious and demanding sport at the higher levels of dog obedience training.

**4.13 DOGS VIC**

**Proposal:** **R.A.E**. Title Delete entire section

Insert Rally Grand Champion (RO Grand Ch) or

if the name change is approved (R Grand Ch)

**4.14 DOGS VIC**

**Proposal:** **R Grand Ch or (RO Grand Ch)** – signifying Rally Grand Champion. The Member Body will receive applications for the title of Rally Grand Champion (R Grand Ch) in connection with each dog which having gained its Rally Champion Title gains a further fifteen (15) qualifying scores of 90 or more points in the Rally Champion Class under a minimum of four (4) different Judges.

**Rationale:**

B Class entries have been declining over the last four years since the introduction of the Master Class and the Rally Champion Title, and this was envisaged so now it is time to remove the classes and the title of RAE and move forward with an even higher level being Rally Grand Champion.

However by removing the B classes, it is Proposal to make both the Excellent and the Master Classes open to entries from all dogs that have gained those titles or higher, allowing the dogs to continue to compete indefinitely at those levels. Rally Novice and Advanced will be only for dogs that have not attained those titles.

1. **CLASSES**

**5.1 DOGS NT**

**Current:** All classes must be available for competition at the Trial and included on the Trial Schedule unless

special permission is granted by the Member Body. No classes other than the following shall be

provided or withdrawn without the special permission of the Member Body.

Qualifications up to and including the date of closing of entry shall count as eligibility to compete in

any class.

**Rally Novice Class – R.N.**

**Rally Novice**

For Dogs six months of age or over and of either sex which are not eligible for the title of Rally Novice

(RN). Under no circumstances except where an application for a RN Title has been rejected on a

technicality, shall a dog which has competed in a Rally Advanced A Class be eligible to compete in

the Rally Novice 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);

no more than five (5) stationary exercises.

**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 - 32. It consists of 10-15 stations

(not including Start and Finish), with a maximum of 5 stationary exercises.

**5.2 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Delete words** “and all dogs must enter and leave the ring on lead”

**Now reads:** All exercises are judged on lead.

**Rationale:** Now covered under “RING PROCEDURE”

**Note:**

**Also delete wording from Rally Advanced and Rally Master Classes**

**5.3 DOGS SA**

**Current:** 3rd paragraph - “stationary exercises” to begin with capital letters

**Proposal:**

Rally Novice must have between ten (10) – fifteen (15) stations (start and finish not included); no more than five (5) **Stationary Exercises.**

**Rationale:** Provide emphasis

**5.4 DOGS NT**

**Proposal: New class**

**Intermediate – RI**

For Dogs six months of age or over and of either sex which have qualified for the title of Rally Novice (RN) but have not competed in any Rally Advanced class or above.

All exercises are judged **off** 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);

no more than five (5) stationary exercises.

**General Regulations:**

The Intermediate Class is performed off lead, using exercises 1 – 32. It consists of 10-15 stations

(not including Start and Finish), with a maximum of 5 stationary exercises.

**Rationale:**

Rally Intermediate class would allow training the next step of being off lead while not having to also learn more exercises.

**5.5 DOGS WEST**

**Proposal: New class**

**Rally Novice B class** for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Novice (RN) Title but are not eligible for the Rally Advanced (RA) Title. Under no circumstances except where an application for a RA Title has been rejected on a technicality, shall a dog which has competed in a Rally Excellent A class be eligible to compete in the Rally Novice B Class. No additional title will be awarded for this class.

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

**Rationale:**

There is currently a considerable difference from Novice on lead to Advanced off lead with more difficult stations. Rally Novice B class would provide an opportunity for Novice dogs to compete off leadwithout the additional technicality of new stations and longer courses. The intention is to utilise the same course as Novice A class dogs.

**5.6 DOGS QLD**

**Current:** Rally Advanced B Rally Excellent B

**Proposal:** That the classes of Rally Advanced B and Rally Excellent B be abolished.

**Rationale:**

These classes are no longer viable or necessary. To run two classes in each of these levels places an unnecessary burden on affiliates (e.g. prizes). There would be no effect to the RAE title as both A and B classes are already competing on the same course.

**5.7 DOGS QLD**

**Consequential Changes:**

Titles:

R.A.E. – signifying Rally Advanced Excellent – To qualify for the title of RAE a dog and Handler team must receive a minimum of five (5) qualifying scores, in both the Rally Advanced B and Rally Excellent B Classes at the same trial, of 80 points or more out of a possible perfect score of 100, under at least two different Judges.

Rally Advanced A

This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Novice (RN) Title but are not eligible for the Rally Advanced (RA) Title and may compete in this class indefinitely.

Rally Excellent A

This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Advanced (RA) Title but are not eligible for the Rally Excellent (RE) Title and may compete in this class indefinitely.

**5.8 DOGS NSW**

**Current: Rally Advanced A**

This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Novice (RN) Title but are not eligible for the Rally Advanced (RA) Title.

**Current: Rally Advanced B**

This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Advanced (RA) 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 Advanced A and B

Rally Advanced A and B must have between twelve (12) – seventeen (17) stations (start & finish not included) and use a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 10 stationary exercises; and requires one jump.

Courses shall have a minimum of 4 Advanced level stations, including the jump.

**Proposal:**

~~Rally Advanced A~~

~~This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Novice (RN) Title but are not eligible for the Rally Advanced (RA) Title.~~

~~Rally Advanced B~~

~~This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Advanced (RA) 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 Advanced A and B~~

Rally Advanced

This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Novice (RN) Title. Once a dog has qualified for the Rally Advanced (RA) title it may continue to compete in this class indefinitely. Rally Advanced ~~A and B~~ must have between twelve (12) – seventeen (17) stations (start & finish not included) and use a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 10 stationary exercises; and requires one jump.

Courses shall have a minimum of 4 Advanced level stations, including the jump.

**Rationale:**

Remove separation of A and B classes

Due to lower numbers in Rally Classes, the cost of additional prizes is becoming a burden for clubs.

**5.9 DOGS VIC**

**Proposal**: Delete Rally Advanced B

Delete Rally Excellent B

Insert Rally Champion

**Rationale:**

The B classes are not being entered by many; this results in the RAE Title not being gained by many in the last few years.

Therefore it is Proposal that the classes be removed from the rule book along with the gaining of the RAE Title.

**5.10 DOGS VIC**

**Proposal:** It is further Proposal that both Rally Novice and Advanced classes only be for those that have not titled at those levels.

However Rally Excellent become a class, which allows any dog which has gained its RE Title or higher, to enter, much like Open in obedience.

So dogs may continue to compete in this class indefinitely.

The same for the Rally Master class, if a dog has gained its RM Title or higher, it is eligible to enter this class indefinitely.

**5.11 DOGS SA**

**Current:** **Rally Advanced A and B**

Rally Advanced A and B must have between twelve (12) – seventeen (17) stations (start & finish not included) and use a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 10 stationary exercises; and requires one jump. Courses shall have a minimum of 4 Advanced level stations, including the jump.

**Proposal:**

Rally Advanced A and B must have between twelve (12) – seventeen (17) stations (start & finish not included) and use a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 10 stationary exercises; and requires one jump. Courses shall have a minimum of *SIX (6)* Advanced level stations, including the jump.

**5.12 DOGS SA**

**Proposal:**

Rally Advanced A and B must have between twelve (12) – seventeen (17) stations (start and finish not included), and use a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 10 *Stationary Exercises*.

Courses shall have a minimum of 4 Advanced level stations, *and include one jump i.e. Station 46*

**Rationale: Improve layout**

**5.13 DOGS WEST**

**Current:** Rally Excellent Class – R.E Rally Excellent A & B

The Excellent class is performed off lead. It must have fifteen (15) – twenty (20) stations ( not including Start and Finish) and use a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 10 stationary exercises and requires two jumps (not consecutive) Courses shall have a minimum of 6 advanced level stations and a minimum of 4 excellent level stations, including the jumps

**Proposal:**

**Reduce the minimum number of compulsory advanced stations to three**

The Excellent class is performed off lead. It must have fifteen (15) – twenty (20) stations ( not including Start and Finish) and use up to 10 stationary exercises and requires two jumps (not consecutive) Courses shall have a minimum of 3 advanced level stations and a minimum of 4 excellent level stations, including the jumps

**Rationale:**

In the advanced level there is (excluding the jump) only one sign that is not stationary, this means that designing a course forces too many stationary signs to be included in the course and reduces the flow.

Continually stopping goes against the objective of Rally O which states that rally provides a fast moving and motivational sport for both dog and handler. Reducing the minimum level of advanced signs that can be chosen, judges will be given an opportunity to design more varied and flowing courses.

As it is impossible to comply with only 3 stationary stations in the course the directive is incorrect and needs to be removed.

**5.14 DOGS NSW**

**Current: Rally Excellent A**

This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Advanced (RA) Title, but are not eligible for the Rally Excellent (RE) Title.

**Rally Excellent B**

This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Excellent (RE) Title and may continue to compete in this class indefinitely.

**Rally Excellent A and B**

The Excellent class is performed off lead. It must have fifteen (15) - twenty (20) stations (not including Start and Finish) and use a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 10 stationary exercises and requires two jumps (not consecutive). Courses shall have a minimum of 6 Advanced level stations and a minimum of 4 Excellent level stations, including the jumps.

Jumps may be a Broad Jump, Solid Jump, Bar Jump except that jumps may be between 1.2m and 2m wide. A station consists of a single jump. One or two types of jump may be used on the course. A single jump may be used in two stations. Jumps must not be used consecutively on the course.

**Proposal**: Changes Classes Rally Excellent *Rally Excellent Class – R.E.*

~~Rally Excellent A~~

~~This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Advanced (RA) Title, but are not eligible for the Rally Excellent (RE) Title.~~

~~Rally Excellent B~~

~~This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Excellent (RE) Title and may continue to compete in this class indefinitely.~~

~~Rally Excellent A and B~~

Rally Excellent

This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Advanced (RA) Title. Once a dog has qualified for the Rally Advanced (RA) Title it may continue to compete in this class indefinitely.

The Excellent class is performed off lead. It must have fifteen (15) - twenty (20) stations (not including Start and Finish) and use a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 10 stationary exercises and requires two jumps (not consecutive). Courses shall have a minimum of 6 Advanced level stations and a minimum of 4 Excellent level stations, including the jumps.

Jumps may be a Broad Jump, Solid Jump, Bar Jump except that jumps may be between 1.2m and 2m wide. A station consists of a single jump. One or two types of jump may be used on the course. A single jump may be used in two stations. Jumps must not be used consecutively on the course.

**Rationale:**

Remove separation of A and B classes

Due to lower numbers in Rally Classes, the cost of additional prizes is becoming a burden for clubs.

**5.15 DOGS SA**

**Current:** **Rally Excellent A and B**

Jumps may be a Broad Jump, Solid Jump , Bar Jump except that jumps may be between 1.2m and 2m wide. One or two types of jump etc………….

**Proposal: Delete** “*except that jumps may be between 1.2m and 2m wide*.”

*And, use new line for each sentence, so that it now reads:*

Jumps may be a Broad Jump, Solid Jump or Bar Jump.

A station consists of a single jump.

One or two types of jump may be used on the course.

A single jump may be used in two stations.

Jumps must not be used consecutively on the course.

**Rationale:** Width of jumps specified elsewhere under the description of each jump.

Improve layout.

**5.16 DOGS SA**

**Current:** **Rally Excellent A and B**

The Excellent class is performed off lead. It must have fifteen (15) - twenty (20) stations (not including Start and Finish) and use a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 10 stationary exercises and requires two jumps (not consecutive). Courses shall have a minimum of 6 Advanced level stations and a minimum of 4 Excellent level stations, including the jumps.

**Proposal:**

The Excellent class is performed off lead. It must have fifteen (15) - twenty (20) stations (not including Start and Finish) and use a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 10 stationary exercises and requires two jumps (not consecutive). Courses shall have a minimum of 6 Advanced level stations and a minimum of Five (5) Excellent level stations, including the jumps.

**5.17 DOGS SA**

**Current: R.A.E.** – signifying Rally Advanced Excellent - To qualify for the title of RAE a dog and Handler team must receive a minimum of five (5) qualifying scores, in both the Rally Advanced B & Rally Excellent B Classes on the same day, of 80 points or more out of a possible perfect score of 100, under at least two different Judges. However for a period of twelve (12) months from the date when these Rules become effective, where a dog has already attained one or more qualifying scores of 80 points or more in both the Rally Advanced B and Rally Excellent B Classes on the same day towards a RAE title under the former Rules, these qualifications will be accepted towards the required total of five (5) double qualifying scores, provided that at least one double qualifying score of 80 points or more must be attained after these Rules become effective.

**Proposal**: The removal of the RAE title.

**Rationale**: At the last review it was decided to keep this title active to enable those who had a number of qualifications towards it to complete it. The title is now redundant as competitors have the Master class.

**5.18 DOGS SA**

**Current:** **Rally Master**

Rally Master must have between eighteen (18) and twenty-four (24) stations (start and finish not included) with no more than ten (10) stationary exercises. The course must contain a minimum of 4 Excellent and 3 Master Class stations.

**Proposal:**

Rally Master must have between eighteen (18) and twenty-four (24) stations (start and finish not included) with no more than ten (10) stationary exercises. The course must contain a minimum of *Five (5)* Excellent and *Five (5)* Master Class stations.

**Rationale:**

Increasing the amount of stations pertaining to each class will go a long way to raising the standard of difficulty of Rally classes to a more appropriate level.

**5.19 DOGS VIC**

**Proposal: Introduction of a Rally Champion Class**

This Class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Champion Title (R Ch)

All exercises are judged off lead and there will be no jumps in this class.

All dogs must enter and leave the ring on lead.

Rally Champion Class must have between twenty (20) and twenty six (26) stations (start and finish not included) with no more than fourteen (14) stationary exercises.

The course must contain a minimum of 5 excellent stations and all master stations.

1. **RINGS**

**6.1 DOGS VIC**

**Current:**

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

**Proposal:** Unless special permission of the Member Body is obtained, the minimum size of an outdoor ring must be fifteen (15) metres by *forty five (45)* metres *and have an entry and exit gate*.

If the trial is held indoors the ring shall be a minimum of fifteen (15) metres by ***thirty metres (30)*** metres ***and have an entry and exit gate***.

The non-slip floor covering or ground surface must be the same as would be suitable for an ANKC Ltd Obedience Trial.

**Rationale:** With the use of more signs and the requirement to have a 4 metre distance between the end of one exercise and the start of the next, more ring area is required to set out courses. The size Proposal is the same size as a standard obedience ring which is often used for Rally.

The larger ring size will allow for better flowing courses especially in the higher classes.

As entry and exit gates are standard on Rally rings it makes sense to incorporate into the rule book.

1. **EXHIBITS**

**7.1 DOGS SA**

**Current: Entry Number**

The handler must be provided with the dog’s catalogue number which must be worn where it can clearly be seen. In the case of multiple entry, only one entry number to be visible whilst in the ring.

**Proposal:** The handler must be provided with the dog’s catalogue number which must be worn where it can clearly be seen. In the case of multiple entry, only the number pertaining to that particular entry is to be visible whilst in the ring.

**Rationale:** Current rule not specific enough. “only one entry number” could be taken to mean any entry number.

1. **EXHIBITORS AND HANDLERS**

**8.1 DOGS SA**

**Current : Entering and Leaving the Ring**

2nd sentence - In Exercises that require a dog to be off–lead, the lead will be taken off and handed to the Steward.

**Proposal:** *Insert* “*upon instruction from the Judge*”

To read - In Exercises that require a dog to be off–lead, the lead will be taken off *upon* *instruction from the Judge*, and handed to the Steward.

**Rationale:** Once in the ring, the competitor shall be under the instruction of the Judge.

**8.2 DOGS TAS**

**Current: Retry:**

Where a team attempts a station and fails to perform the elements of the station correctly on the first attempt, the Handler may choose to retry that station with a three (3) point deduction. The Handler must clearly indicate to the Judge that they are about to retry the station. The station must be retried immediately, in its entirety in the correct position in relation to the station sign.

Any deductions incurred as the Handler repeats the station are added to the -3 points already incurred for attempting the retry. If the Handler fails to perform the station correctly on the second attempt they will incur a total deduction of 13 points for that station.

**Proposal:**

Where a team attempts a station and fails to perform the elements of the station correctly on the first attempt, the Handler may choose to retry that station with a five (5) point deduction. The Handler must clearly indicate to the Judge that they are about to retry the station. The station must be retried immediately, in its entirety in the correct position in relation to the station sign.

Any deductions incurred as the Handler repeats the station are added to the 5 points already incurred for attempting the retry. If the Handler fails to perform the station correctly on the second attempt they will incur a total deduction of 15 points for that station.

**Rationale:**

A retry is halfway to an IP, so the score should reflect this. It needs to be a more severe penalty than 3 points, which can be deducted for handler error (for example). Retries are often demotivating to the dog, and often affect the dog’s confidence if not used correctly. A team could have a 3-point deduction, and an otherwise perfect round, and place 2nd to a team that has had 1 retry with an otherwise perfect round. The team with the retry should be penalised more severely than a simple handler error, due to the nature of the error that has been made.

**8.3 DOGS TAS**

**Current: Non-Qualifying Scores**

If a team receives a non-qualifying score on a course, judging will cease immediately and no retries will be allowed.

**Proposal:**

If a team receives a non-qualifying score on a course, judging will cease immediately and no retries will be allowed.

A dog that has been non-qualified for eliminating in the ring shall immediately be excused.

A Judge who has non-qualified a Handler may excuse the team immediately from the course at the point at which they have non-qualified.

**Rationale:**

It has previously not been clear that a dog that eliminates in the ring should be excused immediately from the ring. Some Judges have allowed these dogs to continue the course run. This risks more elimination and is not fair to other competitors.

**8.4 DOGS QLD**

**Proposal: new rule Hand Position**

The description of the Hand Position should be inserted in the section on

In all classes where the dog is required to heel free, one of the following two options should be followed:

(1) when the handler is in motion, the arms and hands must move naturally at the sides and must hang naturally at the sides when stopped; or

(2) the right hand and arm must move naturally at the side, while the left hand must be held against the front of the body, centred in the area of the waist, with the left forearm carried against the body.

In either of the above situations, the hands and arms may be adjusted during the fast portion of an exercise in order to maintain balance. There will be a penalty if the hands and arms are not carried in one of the positions stated above.

In any exercise that requires a dog to sit in front, the handler’s arms and hands must hang naturally at the sides until the dog has sat in front. The handler must penalised for not doing so. Any movement of the handler’s hands or arms from the time the dog sits in front and prior to the dog returning to the heel position will be considered an additional signal or command and will be penalized unless such movement is otherwise permitted by these rules.

**Rationale:**

The Proposal rule is taken directly from the American Kennel Club rules for obedience (with minor changes of spelling and formatting, and changes from ‘substantial deduction’ to ‘penalised’ for infringements of these rules). The purpose is to clarify for judges and handlers what is expected. It should overcome

guiding the dog with the left hand held the other side of the dog’s head,

luring with the left hand held out in front of, or beside, the dog’s head as a target while heeling,

luring the dog to come to the handler’s front for any exercise when the dog is required to sit in front.

By allowing a choice of hand position during heeling, the hander can choose the one that best suits themselves and their dog.

1. **SCORING (All classes)**

**9.1 DOGS TAS**

**Current:** Scoring for all levels is based on a maximum score of 100 points.

Any faults in traditional Obedience that would be evaluated and scored as a one point deduction or more should be scored the same in Rally, unless otherwise mentioned in the “Rally Rules”.There shall be no 1⁄2 point penalties in Rally Obedience.The following deductions shall apply:

**1 point deduction for each of the following:**

Tight lead

Dog interfering with Handler’s forward motion

Poor sits, downs and stands

Slow or resistant response

Touching a pylon, post or course distractions

Touching or hitting a jump without dislodgement

Out of position

**3 point deduction for each of the following:**

Repeat of a station, maximum of two (2) retries allowed per run

Pylon/post knocked over (on Figure Eight, Spiral and Serpentine) by a dog and/or handler

Lack of control

Loud command or intimidating signal

Excessive barking

Course distractions knocked over or dislodged

**1 to 10 point deduction:**

Lack of teamwork

Lack of briskness

Handler error

**10 point deduction for each of the following:**

* Incorrectly performed station (including Failure to clear a jump)

**Non-qualifying (NQ) scores shall be given for:**

Minimum requirements not met

Dog unmanageable, or uncontrolled barking

Consistently tight lead

Dog relieving itself in the ring

Handler error

Station not attempted

Failure of a dog to go over a jump in the proper direction

Attempting more than two (2) retries

Performing a station out of sequence

Where a station is rendered unusable

**9.2 DOGS TAS**

**Proposal: 1 point deduction for each of the following:**

Out of position when heeling from one station to the next

**9.3 DOGS TAS**

**Proposal: 3 point deduction for each of the following:**

**Delete:** Repeat of a station, maximum of two (2) retries allowed per run

**9.4 DOGS TAS**

**Proposal: 5 point deduction**

Repeat of a station, maximum of two (2) retries allowed per run

**Rationale:**

Clarifies that heeling should be marked between stations, as the deductions do not categorically state this.

Added in 5 point deduction for a retry to keep aligned to retry submission.

**9.5** **DOGS QLD**

**Proposal:**

**Non-qualifying (NQ) scores shall be given for:**

- Course distraction picked up by dog and removed

**Rationale**:

There is currently a 3-point deduction for knocking over or dislodging a distraction but no penalty for a dog physically picking up a distraction in its mouth and moving it to another part of the course.

**9.6 DOGS NSW**

**Proposal:**

*Scoring (all Classes):*

**10 point deduction for each of the following:**

- Incorrectly performed station ~~(including Failure to clear a jump)~~

**9.7 DOGS NSW**

**Non-qualifying (NQ) scores shall be given for:**

- Failure to clear a jump

~~- Where a station is rendered unusable~~

**Rationale:**

Specify that failure to clear a jump is a non-qualifying score

There is contradiction in the present rules in 10 point deduction and Non qualifying scores in regard to the jumps.

By deleting

'Where a station is rendered unusable" and inserting "Failure to clear a jump"

this contradiction would not exist.

In performing a jump the dog should clear the bar or the broad jump. Failure to do so should be a Non Qualifying Score (NQ) as it the case in Obedience and Agility disciplines.

1. **JUDGING PROCEDURES**

**10.1 DOGS QLD**

**Proposal:**

Unless specifically approved by the Member Body, a non-qualifying score shall not in itself necessarily constitute grounds to order removal, and dogs will generally be given the opportunity to complete their turn. A Judge may not be permitted to dismiss a competitor from the ring based solely on a NQ score. Should the competitor choose to continue they must not use it as a training session.

**Rationale:**

This rule is presently in the Obedience rule book and it equally applies to Rally O.

1. **GUIDE TO JUDGES**

**11.1 DOGS SA**

**Current: Judge’s Charts**

2nd sentence

“The Judge will post the course/courses outside the ring etc……………”

**Proposal: Include this under a new heading:**

**Posting of the Course:**

The Judge will post the course/courses outside the ring when the course has been built.

The Judge may alter the course because of unseen ring conditions and post the changes.

Prior to scheduled judging time, the Judge should inspect the ring , which must meet all the requirements of the Rally Rules.

**Insert**

***The course for each class will be posted at the ring prior to the familiarization*** ***time.*** *(moved from paragraph 5 in RING PROCEDURE)*

*i.e. Amend to read*

**GUIDE TO JUDGES**

A Judge must conduct himself in a manner that is fair and not prejudicial to the sport.

The responsibility for making the test……………..etc.………., as dogs should not attain their Titles upon work of poor quality.

**Judges Charts:**

The Judge will verify the final scores on the Judge’s Chart and mark the time started and finished, initial any corrections and sign the Chart.

**Posting the Course:**

The Judge will post the course/courses outside the ring when the course has been built.

The Judge may alter the course because of unseen ring conditions and post the changes.

Prior to scheduled judging time, the Judge should inspect the ring , which must meet all the requirements of the Rally Rules.

The course for each class will be posted at the ring prior to the familiarization time.

**Rationale:** Improvement to layout

1. **RING PROCEDURE**

**12.1 DOGS SA**

**Proposal:** Rearrange order of paragraphs 1,2,3,4,6,7 and 8.

Add headings “Signs”, “Stationary Exercise” and “Walk Through”

Arrange paragraphs 3, 6, 1, and 4 under heading “Signs”

Arrange paragraph 2 under heading “Stationary Exercise”

Arrange paragraph 7 and 8 under heading “Walk Through”

Move paragraph 5 as per Item #13 above.

Section now reads:

**12.2 DOGS WEST**

**Current:** Rally signs 30, 31, 36, 49, 50, 54, 55, 57, 58.

All these signs require the handler to pause. The wording is -

The Handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station

**Proposal:**

Remove the word pause in all of these signs and replace with

The handler must **become stationary** in the heel position before moving forward to the next station.

**Rationale:**

There is some confusion on how quickly or slowly the handler takes to pause before moving on. If the wording is changed to the handler becomes stationaryit is very clear that the handler has to stop moving completely before moving on to the next station

**12.3 DOGS SA**

**Current: (2nd paragraph)** Stationary exercises are any signs indicating a ‘Halt’ or no forward motion

**Proposal:** Stationary exercises are any signs indicating a ‘Halt’ or no forward motion *by the dog*.

**Rationale:**

A Stationary Exercise should be determined by whatever action the dog is taking, not necessarily the Handler. An exercise where the dog continues moving whilst the Handler may halt or pause should not be considered to be a Stationary Exercise.

At present, particularly in Excellent and Master Classes the majority of stations require the dog and Handler to halt. This can be demotivating for the dog. We need to add new non-stationary exercises, including where the dog continues to move whilst the Handler may pause or Halt. See Proposal new Stations below.

**12.4 DOGS QLD**

**Current: (3rd paragraph)** Signs will be placed to the right of the Handler’s path except for those indicating a change of direction, in which case the sign will be directly in front of the Handler.

**Proposal:**

Signs will be placed to the right of the Handler’s path except for those indicating a change of direction, in which case the sign will be directly in front of the Handler. Changes of direction must be indicated by change of direction signs or Spirals, Weaves or Figure 8s.

**Rationale:**

One of the objectives of Rally O is for participants to complete a set course without having to work out their own path to the next sign if it is not directly in front of them. “Blind turns” have the potential to cause confusion and differing course paths which could affect the judging and course time. There are numerous ways to create good flowing and challenging courses with the change of direction signs and the Spirals, Weaves and Figure 8s.

**12.5 DOGS SA**

**Proposal:**  Signs will be placed to the right of the Handler’s path, except for those indicating a change in direction, in which case the sign will be directly in front of the Handler.

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).

Signs with an asterisk (numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 18 and 46) may be used multiple times on a Rally Course.

Two of each of those signs must be available for the Judge’s use.

All other signs may only be used once on any course.

Exercises using cones may require entry with the sign on the left. The sign will be placed on the first cone. Exact placements of signs are made by the Judge while laying out the course.

**Stationary Exercise**

A Stationary Exercise are any signs indicating a “Halt” or no forward motion.

**Walk Through**

A 10 minute walk through will be allowed for a maximum of twenty five (25) Handlers, without their dogs. After each block of a maximum of twenty five (25) Handlers the Judge will conduct another 10 minute walk through.

When the same course is used for A and B classes, the Judge may choose to combine the classes for the walk through time.

The Judge must be available in the ring during this period top answer any questions the Handlers might have. The Judge may also choose to brief the Handlers on the course during this period.
**Rationale**: Improve layout to improve readability

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  **12.6 DOGS NSW****Current: (paragraph 8)**When the same course is used for A and B classes, the Judge may choose to combine the classes for the walk through time. The Judge must be available in the ring during this period to answer any questions the Handlers might have. The Judge may also choose to brief the Handlers on the course during this period.**Proposal:**~~When the same course is used for A and B classes, the Judge may choose to combine the classes for the walk through time.~~ The Judge must be available in the ring during this period to answer any questions the Handlers might have. The Judge may also choose to brief the Handlers on the course during this period*.***Rationale:**If separation between A and B classes is removed, then need to remove thisreference to them. **12.7 DOGS NSW****Proposal:** New rule (insert after Distance Between Stations)Distance MarkersAt stations where Handlers are required to proceed a certain distance from their dog, the Judge should indicate the distance with a small marker.**Rationale:** Marking the distance would mean that all Handlers would go the same distance and create a level playing field. **12.8 DOGS SA****Proposal:** Insert All dogs must enter and leave the ring on lead.**Rationale:** This statement applies to all classes. Reduce duplication.1. **EQUIPMENT**

 **13.1 DOGS SA****Proposal:** Move section headed **“Collars and Leads”** to directly after main heading **EQUIPMENT** **13.2 DOGS SA****Collars and Leads****Proposal: Delete** “All dogs must enter and leave the ring on a lead. In exercises that require a dog to be off –lead, the lead will be taken off and handed to the Steward at the Start Station.”**Rationale:** Already covered in these rules.**Proposal:** **EQUIPMENT****Collars and Leads**The minimum length of lead will be 750mm and it will be fitted with a quick release fastener. The lead must be made of fabric or leather and must be long enough to provide adequate slack. All dogs must have a slip collar or fixed collar which fits loosely around the dog’s neck and must remain on the dog at all times. No spiked collars, electronic collars or collars which give additional head control shall be permitted.All ***Ring*** Equipment must be provided by the club hosting the event. **13.3 DOGS SA****Signs and Holders:****Proposal:** The designated wording and symbols must be used. Signs must be etc…………..**Rationale**: Items - Equipment, collars, leads - Improve layout **13.4 DOGS SA****Current: Jumps** - 2nd sentenceAll jumps must be painted white or a very light colour, unless otherwise stipulated.**Proposal:** All jumps mustbe *white, except for the bar used in the Bar Jump.***Rationale:** The existing rule demands that the jumps are to be painted, and makes no distinction even if the material used is already white. E.g. white poly pipe or similar. Remove reference to “or a very light colour” as this allows all sorts of options – what constitutes a light colour? **13.5 DOGS SA****Current: Broad Jump -** 2nd sentenceFor convenience, the three jumps may be built to telescope.**Proposal:** For convenience, the three jumps may be built to **nest together.****Rationale:**  The term “telescope” tends to indicate that the jumps should slide into each other lengthwise, as per a telescope. **13.6 DOGS TAS****Proposal:** New Rule**Distance Control Markers**For all stations that require a distance control, a marker indicating the distance the handler is required to lead out to must be placed on the ground for each of these stations. for judges, and they can judge everyone to the same standard. Every handler and dog is then on a level playing field.**Rationale:**To allow consistency so that everyone is walking out to the same spot and completing the station to the same standard. Sometimes people think they are pacing to the correct distance, and they actually aren’t. This will also take the guesswork out.1. **SIGNS**

 **14.1 DOGS SA**The following signs have been indicated as requiring some alteration;**Current Sign: 3**. Halt - Sit - Whilst heeling, the Handler halts and the dog sits in heel position. The team then moves forward, with the dog in heel position. (Stationary exercise).**Proposal:** SIGN #3. Halt ~~- Sit -~~ Whilst heeling, the Handler halts and the dog sitsin heel position. The team then moves forward, with the dog in heel position. (Stationary exercise).**Rationale**: The word “sit” command is redundant, as well as being confusing for novice handlers.  **14.2 DOGS VIC**SIT**Changes to existing stations****Current Sign 3.** Halt - Sit- Whilst heeling, the Handler halts and the dogsits in heel position. The team then moves forward, with thedog in heel position. (Stationary exercise) is on the sign**Proposal:** Remove the HALT from the sign SIT**Rationale** - the Halt is not required as the instruction to sit is on the *sign* **14.3 DOGS TAS****Current Sign: 4 Halt – Down** Whilst heeling, the Handler halts and the dog sits. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to down, followed by the command to heel forward from the down position. (Stationary exercise)**Proposal:** Sign 4 – Halt – Down Whilst heeling, the Handler halts and the dog sits. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to down. The handler must return to an upright stationery position and show a pause in heel position before commanding the dog to heel forward from the down position. (Stationary exercise)**Rationale:**The rationale for the handler returning to an upright stationary position, is that this proves the dog has a steady down, which is part of the exercise, before heeling forward. Some handlers will lure their dog into the down position, and maintain this lured position throughout the exercise, or the dog will break from position as the handler moves, which is unfair on the handlers that can get their dog into a down position without needing to do this. **14.4 DOGS TAS****Current Sign: 7 About Turn – Right** Whilst heeling, the team makes a 180° about turn to the Handler’s right.**Proposal:** Sign 7 About Turn – RightWhilst heeling, the team makes a 180° about turn to the Handler’s right. The team must maintain continuous motion throughout the turn without partially sitting or stopping**Rationale:**This is not a stationary exercise, therefore, dogs should not be partially sitting or stopping whilst executing the turn. This additional wording clarifies this and allows judges to penalise accordingly. **14.5 DOGS TAS****Current Sign: 8 About “U” Turn** Whilst heeling, the team makes a 180° turn to the Handler’s left.**Proposal:** Sign 8 About “U” TurnWhilst heeling, the team makes a 180° turn to the Handler’s left. The team must maintain continuous motion throughout the turn without partially sitting or stopping**Rationale:** This is not a stationary exercise, therefore, dogs should not be partially sitting or stopping whilst executing the turn. This additional wording clarifies this and allows judges to penalise accordingly. **14.6 DOGS SA****Current Sign: 8 About “U” Turn** - Whilst heeling, the team makes a 180° turn to the Handler’s left.**Proposal:** Sign 8 About U Turn Left - Whilst heeling, the team makes a 180° turn to the Handler’s left.**Rationale:** As sign 7 reads “About Turn Right” and sign 8 is the reflection of that sign, the wording should also be reflected.  **14.7 DOGS TAS****Current Sign: 9 270° Right Turn** Whilst heeling, the team makes a 270° turn to the Handler’s right. 270° turns are performed as a tight circle appropriate to the size of the dog, but not around the exercise sign.**Proposal:** Sign 9 \*270° Right TurnWhilst heeling, the team makes a 270° turn to the Handler’s right. 270° turns are performed as a tight circle appropriate to the size of the dog, but not around the exercise sign. The team must maintain continuous motion throughout the turn without partially sitting or stopping.**Rationale:** This is not a stationary exercise, therefore, dogs should not be partially sitting or stopping whilst executing the turn. This additional wording clarifies this and allows judges to penalise accordingly. **14.8 DOGS TAS****Current Sign: 10 270° Left Turn** Whilst heeling, the team makes a 270° turn to the Handler’s left. 270° turns are performed as a tight circle appropriate to the size of the dog, but not around the exercise sign. **Proposal:** Sign 10 \*270° Left TurnWhilst heeling, the team makes a 270° turn to the Handler’s left. 270° turns are performed as a tight circle appropriate to the size of the dog, but not around the exercise sign. The team must maintain continuous motion throughout the turn without partially sitting or stopping.**Rationale:** This is not a stationary exercise, therefore, dogs should not be partially sitting or stopping whilst executing the turn. This additional wording clarifies this and allows judges to penalise accordingly. **14.9 DOGS TAS****Current Sign: 11 360° Right Turn** Whilst heeling, the team makes a 360° turn to the Handler’s right. 360° turns are performed as a tight circle appropriate to the size of the dog but not around the exercise sign. **Proposal:** Sign 11 \*270° Right TurnWhilst heeling, the team makes a 360° turn to the Handler’s right. 360° turns are performed as a tight circle appropriate to the size of the dog but not around the exercise sign. The team must maintain continuous motion throughout the turn without partially sitting or stopping.**Rationale:** This is not a stationary exercise, therefore, dogs should not be partially sitting or stopping whilst executing the turn. **14.10 DOGS TAS****Current Sign: 12 360° Left Turn** Whilst heeling, the team makes a 360° turn to the Handler’s left. 360° turns are performed as a tight circle appropriate to the size of the dog but not around the exercise sign. **Proposal:** Sign 12 270° Left TurnWhilst heeling, the team makes a 360° turn to the Handler’s left. 360° turns are performed as a tight circle appropriate to the size of the dog but not around the exercise sign. The team must maintain continuous motion throughout the turn without partially sitting or stopping.**Rationale:** This is not a stationary exercise, therefore, dogs should not be partially sitting or stopping whilst executing the turn. **14.11 DOGS NSW****Current Sign: 21. Spiral Right - Dog Outside**This exercise requires three pylons or posts placed in a straight line with spaces between them of approximately 2.0 – 2.5 metres. Spiral Right indicates the Handler must turn to the right when moving around each pylon or post. This places the dog on the outside of the turns. The exercise sign is placed near or on the first pylon or post where the spiral is started.**Proposal:** 21. Spiral Right - Dog OutsideThis exercise requires three pylons or posts placed in a straight line with spaces between them of approximately 2.0 – 2.5 metres. Spiral Right indicates the Handler must turn to the right when moving around each pylon or post. This places the dog on the outside of the turns. The exercise sign is placed near or on the first pylon or post where the spiral is started.ADD diagram of path below sign (as done for Station 39 Offset Figure 8)**Rationale:** This diagram was included in the workshop session with the original Rally O signs and provides an excellent description of how the signs should be completed **14.12 DOGS NSW****Current Sign: 22. Spiral Left - Dog Inside**This exercise requires three pylons or posts placed in a straight line with spaces between them of approximately 2.0 – 2.5 metres. Spiral Left indicates that the Handler must turn to the left when moving around each pylon or post. This places the dog on the inside of the turns. The exercise sign is placed near or on the first pylon or post where the spiral is started.**Proposal:** Spiral Left – Dog Inside22. Spiral Right - Dog InsideThis exercise requires three pylons or posts placed in a straight line with spaces between them of approximately 2.0 – 2.5 metres. Spiral Left indicates that the Handler must turn to the left when moving around each pylon or post. This places the dog on the inside of the turns. The exercise sign is placed near or on the first pylon or post where the spiral is started.ADD diagram of path below sign (as done for Station 39 Offset Figure 8)**Rationale:**This diagram was included in the workshop session with the original Rally O signs and provides an excellent description of how the signs should be completed **14.13 DOGS VIC****Current Sign: 27. Moving - Down** - Whilst moving with the dog in heelMOVINGDOWNposition, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog todown as the Handler comes to a stop next to the dog. Oncethe dog is completely down, the Handler moves forward,commanding the dog to move forward from down position.(Stationary exercise)DOWN**Proposal:** Remove the word 'Moving' from the sign**Rationale:** The handler comes to a halt as they signal the down so this is not a moving down. **14.14 DOGS TAS****Proposal: Sign 27 Moving - Down**Whilst moving with the dog in heel position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to down as the Handler comes to a stop next to the dog. Once the dog is completely down, the Handler must return to an upright stationery position and show a pause in heel position before commanding the dog to move forward from down position. (Stationary exercise)**Rationale:** The rationale for the handler returning to an upright stationary position, is that this proves the dog has a steady down, which is part of the exercise, before heeling forward. Some handlers will lure their dog into the down position, and maintain this lured position throughout the exercise, or the dog will break from position as the handler moves, which is unfair on the handlers that can get their dog into a down position without needing to do this. **14.15 DOGS VIC**MOVINGSTAND**Current sign: 32 Moving - Stand -** Whilst moving with the dog in heelposition, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog tostand as the Handler comes to a stop next to the dog. Oncethe dog is completely paused in a stand, the Handler movesforward, commanding the dog to move forward from standposition. (Stationary exercise)STAND**Proposal:** Remove the word 'Moving' from the sign**Rationale:** The handler comes to a halt as they signal the stand so this is not a moving stand **14.16 DOGS TAS****Current Sign: 35 Halt - Turn Right One Step - Call to Heel – Halt** The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to stay. The Handler then turns to the right, while taking one step in that direction, and halts. The dog is directed to heel position and must move and sit in the new location before moving forward to the next station. (Stationary exercise)**Proposal**: Sign 35 Halt - Turn Right One Step - Call to Heel – HaltThe Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to stay. The Handler then turns to the right, while taking one step in that direction, and halts. The dog must maintain the stay until it is directed to the new heel position and must move and sit in the new location before moving forward to the next station. (Stationary exercise)**Rationale:** By stipulating that dogs must maintain the stay until it is directed to the new heel position, this will ensure dogs are marked accordingly if they anticipate the call up and break from position.  **14.17 DOGS TAS****Current Sign : 36 Halt - Stand Dog - Walk Around** The 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. The Handler may not physically assist the dog to move into the stand. (Stationary exercise)**Proposal:** Sign 36 Halt - Stand Dog - Walk AroundThe 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. (Stationary exercise)**Rationale:**It is counterproductive to allow the handler to touch the dog or move forward to stand the dog in the Advanced class, when this is not allowed in Excellent or Masters. The way this station is performed should be consistent through all levels, otherwise, a handler can train this a particular way for Advanced and would then be required to potentially re-train this as they progress through the levels.Further, by allowing handlers to move forward to stand the dog, they could potentially go past the sign, which is then technically IP, and also, the current rule doesn’t stipule how far forward a handler can move to get the dog into a stand, therefore it’s not fair and consistent to all competitors. Removing this element of wording would eliminate any grey area for a judge to negotiate.  **14.18 DOGS TAS****Current Sign: 37 Halt - 90° Pivot Right – Halt** The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 90° to the right and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place. (Stationary exercise)**Proposal:** Sign 37 Halt - 90° Pivot Right - HaltThe Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 90° to the right and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place and must not take any steps forward (Stationary exercise)**Rationale:** Now that judges allow for a handler to step on the spot in order to pivot, they must not be allowed to take any steps forward in the process. **14.19 DOGS TAS****Current Sign: 38 Halt - 90° Pivot Left – Halt** The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 90° to the left and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place. (Stationary exercise)**Proposal:** Sign 38 Halt - 90° Pivot Left - HaltThe Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 90° to the left and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. The dog must back into position, not turn into the handler. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place and must not take any steps forward (Stationary exercise)**Rationale:** The dog should keep motion with the handler during the pivot and back into position as the handler moves. A lot of dogs are turning into the handler (sometimes even facing them), and then the handler is re-positioning them for the sit after the pivot. The handler is completing the pivot, but the dog isn’t. Both members of the team should be executing a pivot.Now that judges allow for a handler to step on the spot in order to pivot, they must not be allowed to take any steps forward in the process. **14.20 DOGS NSW****Current Sign: 39 Offset Figure 8 -** 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.**Proposal**:39. ~~Offset~~ Figure 8 - 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. **Rationale:**1. Move current Offset Figure Eight (Sign 39) from Advanced to Excellent with new sign number 2. Change Offset Figure Eight in Advanced Class – remove distractions3. Renumber other Excellent and Masters signs as requiredMoving from the Novice class to the Advanced class is a significant challenge, particularly for handlers and dogs who are new to the sport.Station 39 Offset Figure Eight is a far greater increase in difficulty for dogs than the other challenges posed by progressing to working off lead, because of the distractions. It is far more difficult for most dogs than other Advanced stations. The level of difficulty of the station is more suited to the Excellent class.A further benefit of the change is that there will be an additional moving station at Excellent level, which will provide more options and variety in the Excellent and Masters courses. Excellent and Masters courses must include a minimum of four Excellent stations. However, there are currently only six Excellent stations, of which only two are moving stations. The suggested change means that there is still a Figure Eight exercise in the Advanced class, with the course options provided by that exercise. **14.21 DOGS TAS****Current: Sign 40 Halt - Side-step Right – Halt** The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler moves one step directly to the right and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position when the Handler halts. The exercise shall be performed just past the exercise sign. (Stationary exercise)**Proposal:** Sign 40 Halt - Side-step Right – HaltThe Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler moves one step directly to the right and halts. The dog moves parallel with the Handler and maintains heel position throughout the exercise and sits in heel position when the Handler halts. The exercise shall be performed just past the exercise sign. (Stationary exercise)**Rationale:**Dogs are not moving parallel with the handler, or at the same time as the handler (i.e.: handler is taking the step sideways and the dog doesn’t move, then the dog is called across).The sign asks for a side step right for the team. With dogs turning into the handler and then realigning for a sit, it is not a side step right completed as a team. **14.22 DOGS WEST****Current: Rally signs 41, 42** The handler must not step forwards or backwards to aid the dog during the exercise**Proposal:** Change the wording to The handler must become stationary**Rationale:** The intent is for the handler to not move in order to help the dog. This wording ensure the handler doesn’t move sideways for the finish. **14.23 DOGS QLD****Current: Sign 43 Halt - 180° Pivot Right - Halt**The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 180° to the right and halts. The dog moves with theHandler and sits in heel position. (Stationary exercise)**Proposal:**:43. Halt - 180° Pivot Right - Halt – The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 180° to the right and halts. The dog moves with theHandler and sits in heel position. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place. (Stationary exercise)**Rationale:** To provide consistent wording for all of the PIVOT exercises. This wording was added to Stations 37 & 38 at the last rules review but was not included in Stations 43 & 44. **14.24 DOGS TAS****Proposal: Sign 43 Halt - 180° Pivot Right - Halt**The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 180° to the right and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place and must not take any steps forward (Stationary exercise)**Rationale:** Adding “The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place” maintains the sameterminology as Sign #37 Halt - 90° Pivot Right – Halt. By doing this, it allows for ahandler to step on the spot in order to pivot, however, they must not be allowed to take any steps forward in the process. **14.25 DOGS TAS****Proposal: Sign 43** Move to Excellent level**Rationale** :Dogs moving up from novice to advanced are required to learn the 90° pivot, a 180° pivot is a much more complex behaviour to teach and would be better suited to the Excellent level. This would create a natural progression moving through the levels **14.26 DOGS QLD****Current: Sign 44. Halt - 180° Pivot Left - Halt** *–* The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 180° to the left and halts. The dog moves with the Handlerand sits in heel position*.* (Stationary exercise)**Proposal:**44. Halt - 180° Pivot Left - Halt *–* The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 180° to the left and halts. The dog moves with the Handlerand sits in heel position*.* The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place.(Stationary exercise)**Rationale:**To provide consistent wording for all of the PIVOT exercises. This wording was added to Stations 37 & 38 at the last rules review but was not included in Stations 43 & 44. **14.27 DOGS TAS****Current: Sign 44 Halt - 180° Pivot Left – Halt** The Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 180° to the left and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. (Stationary exercise)**Proposal:**Sign44 Halt - 180° Pivot Left – HaltThe Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the Handler pivots 180° to the left and halts. The dog moves with the Handler and sits in heel position. The dog must back into position, not turn into the handler. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place and must not take any steps forward (Stationary exercise)**Rationale:**The dog should keep motion with the handler during the pivot and back into position as the handler moves. A lot of dogs are turning into the handler (sometimes even facing them), and then the handler is re-positioning them for the sit after the pivot. The handler is completing the pivot, but the dog isn’t. Both members of the team should be executing a pivot.Adding “The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place” maintains the same terminology as Sign #38 Halt - 90° Pivot Left – Halt. By doing this, it allows for a handler to step on the spot in order to pivot, however, they must not be allowed to take any steps forward in the process. **14.28 DOGS TAS** **Proposal: Sign 44 Move to Excellent level****Rationale:**Dogs moving up from novice to advanced are required to learn the 90° pivot, a 180° pivot is a much more complex behaviour to teach and would be better suited to the Excellent level. This would create a natural progression moving through the levels **14.29 DOGS TAS****Current: Sign 45 Halt - Down – Sit** The Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to down, then to sit. The Handler does not physically handle the dog or move forward or backward. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to heel forward from the sitting position. (Stationary exercise)**Proposal:** Sign 45 Halt - Down - SitThe Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to down. The handler must return to an upright stationery position and show a pause in heel position before commanding and/or signalling the dog to sit. The Handler does not physically handle the dog or move forward or backward. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to heel forward from the sitting position. (Stationary exercise)**Rationale:**The rationale for the handler returning to an upright stationary position, is that this proves the dog has a steady down, which is part of the exercise, before asking for a sit, instead of the handlers staying bent over and essentially luring the dog back up into a sit. Some handlers will lure their dog into the down position, and maintain this lured position throughout the exercise, or the dog will break from position as the handler moves, which is unfair on the handlers that can get their dog into a down position without needing to do this. **14.30 DOGS TAS****Current: Sign 46 Send Over Jump - Handler Passes By**Whilst 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.**Proposal:** Sign 46 \*Send Over Jump - Handler Passes By -Whilst 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.A Retry shall not be permitted on this exercise If the bar is knocked from a bar jump or the dog walks on a broad jump.**Rationale:** The rules under the section **Retry** indicate that specific exercises may expressly prohibit a Retry however they do not. This clarification would provide consistency. **14.31 DOGS SA****Proposal: Delete Current Sign 46** (Send Over Jump - Handler Passes By)**Rationale:** To make Rally the most viable option for dogs that have difficulty in jumping and to eliminate the variation in jump heights for dogs participating in both Rally and traditional Obedience.Consequential changes will be needed to delete all references to Jumps and Calculation of the Height and Width of Jumps. **14.32 DOGS TAS****Current: Sign 48 Halt - Stand – Down** The Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the Handler will stand the dog (without physical handling or moving forward), then command and/or signal the dog to down. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to heel forward from the down position. (Stationary exercise) **Proposal:** Sign 48 Halt - Stand - DownThe Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the Handler will stand the dog (without physical handling or moving forward), then command and/or signal the dog to down. The handler must return to an upright stationery position and show a pause in heel position before commanding and/or signalling the dog to heel forward from the down position. (Stationary exercise)**Rationale:**The rationale for the handler returning to an upright stationary position, is that this proves the dog has a steady down, which is part of the exercise, before heeling forward. Some handlers will lure their dog into the down position, and maintain this lured position throughout the exercise, or the dog will break from position as the handler moves, which is unfair on the handlers that can get their dog into a down position without needing to do this. **14.33 DOGS TAS****Current Sign 49 Moving Stand - Walk Around Dog** Whilst heeling and without pausing, the Handler will stand 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 standing position. (Stationary exercise)**Proposal:** Sign 49 Moving Stand - Walk Around DogWhilst heeling and without pausing or stopping, the Handler will stand the dog and walk around the dog to the left at an even pace, returning to heel position. Once the handler has reached the dog’s front left shoulder, the dog should be in a stand and not break position. The Handler must pause in heel position after returning to the dog. Dog must move forward from the standing position. (Stationary exercise)**Rationale:**The intent of this exercise is for the handler to stand the dog without pausing or coming to a complete stop. Handlers have been known to come to a complete stop when getting the dog to stand without being penalised. Adding the word “stopping” clarifies what the expectation is from the handler and ensures this no longer occurs.Handlers need to move at an even pace throughout the entire exercise to prevent them slowing up to re-cue the dog if it hasn’t stood.Allowing the handler to reach the dog’s front left shoulder before the dog is steady in the stand position allows for dog’s who may “paddle” into position to steady themselves without being penalised. **14.34 DOGS TAS****Current: Sign 50 Halt – Leave Dog – Recall** The Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit and stay, then leaves the dog approximately 5 metres, performs an about turn, halts and commands and/or signals the dog to come. The dog shall sit in front of the Handler. The Handler shall return to the right side of the dog by either a step back to the side or around the dog. Handler must pause upon returning to the dog. (Stationary exercise)**Proposal:** Sign 50 Halt – Leave Dog - RecallThe Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit and stay, then leaves the dog 5 metres, performs an about turn, halts and commands and/or signals the dog to come. The dog shall sit in front of the Handler. The Handler shall return to the right side of the dog by either a step back to the side or around the dog. Handler must pause upon returning to the dog. (Stationary exercise)**Rationale:**The distance should be a set distance, not an approximate, which makes it fairer for every dog and handler. My approximate 5 metres could actually be 5.5 metres, and someone else’s approximate could be 4.5 metres. Every dog and handler should be completing the station to the same standard, not to approximates. **14.35 DOGS QLD****Current: Sign 50. Halt – Leave Dog - Recall** - The Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit and stay, then leaves the dog approximately 5 metres, performs an about turn, halts and commands and/or signals the dog to come. The dog shall sit in front of the Handler. The Handler shall return to the right side of the dog by either a step back to the side or around the dog. Handler must pause upon returning to the dog. (Stationary exercise)**Proposal:**50. Halt – Leave Dog - Recall - The Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit and stay, ~~then leaves the dog approximately 5 metres,~~ and walks forward at least 5 metres, performs an about turn, halts and commands and/or signals the dog to come. The dog shall sit in front of the Handler. The Handler shall return to the right side of the dog by either a step back to the side or around the dog. Handler must pause upon returning to the dog. (Stationary exercise)**Rationale:** To provide consistent wording for all of the distance exercises. |   |
|  **14.36 DOGS NSW** **Proposal: New Station (was Advanced Station 31)****53. Offset Figure 8** - 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.**Rationale:**1. Move current Offset Figure Eight (Sign 39) from Advanced to Excellent with new sign number 2. Change Offset Figure Eight in Advanced Class – remove distractions3. Renumber other Excellent and Masters signs as requiredMoving from the Novice class to the Advanced class is a significant challenge, particularly for handlers and dogs who are new to the sport.Station 39 Offset Figure Eight is a far greater increase in difficulty for dogs than the other challenges posed by progressing to working off lead, because of the distractions. It is far more difficult for most dogs than other Advanced stations. The level of difficulty of the station is more suited to the Excellent class.A further benefit of the change is that there will be an additional moving station at Excellent level, which will provide more options and variety in the Excellent and Masters courses. Excellent and Masters courses must include a minimum of four Excellent stations. However, there are currently only six Excellent stations, of which only two are moving stations. The suggested change means that there is still a Figure Eight exercise in the Advanced class, with the course options provided by that exercise. **14.37 DOGS TAS****Current: Sign 53 Backup 3 Steps** Whilst heeling, the Handler reverses direction walking backward at least 3 steps, without first stopping, then continues heeling forward. The dog moves backward **parallel** to the Handler and maintains heel position throughout the exercise without sitting or turning its body to face the Handler.**Proposal:** Sign 53 Backup 3 StepsWhilst heeling, the Handler reverses direction walking backward at least 3 steps, without first stopping, then continues heeling forward. The dog moves backward parallel to the Handler and must maintain heel position throughout the exercise without sitting or turning its body to face the Handler.**Rationale:**Clarifies that the dog is always in heel position parallel to the handler throughout the exercise, and makes it clearer to the judge on how to score the station if the dog turns in to the Handler **14.38 DOGS TAS****Current: Sign 54 Halt – Leave Dog – Down – Sit - Distance Commands –** ReturnThe Handler halts and the dog sits. The handler leaves the dog and walks forward at least 3 metres, performs an about turn and halts. The Handler commands and/or signals the dog to down. Once the dog is in down position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit. Once the dog is in sit position, the Handler returns around back of dog into heel position. The Handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station. (Stationary Exercise).**Proposal:**Sign 54 Halt – Leave Dog – Down – Sit - Distance Commands - ReturnThe Handler halts and the dog sits. The handler leaves the dog and walks forward 3 metres, performs an about turn and halts. The Handler commands and/or signals the dog to down. Once the dog is in down position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit. Once the dog is in sit position, the Handler returns around back of dog into heel position. The Handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station. The maximum total movement forward from the dog will not exceed 1 body length of the dog from start to finish of the exercise (Stationary Exercise).**Rationale:**The distance should be a set distance, not at least 3 metres, which makes it fairer for every dog and handler. My at least 3 metres could actually be 3.5 metres, and someone else’s at least 3 metres could be 2.5 metres. Every dog and handler should be completing the station to the same standard, not to approximatesDogs should not be surging too far forward in an exercise where the primary objective is for change of position from a distance. For the equivalent class in Obedience rules stipulate that half a body length is permissible, however, the intent of RallyO is to be more relaxed than obedience, so one full body length should be all that is permissible. This will help judges to determine if and when the station has been incorrectly performed. **14.39 DOGS TAS****Current: Sign 55 Stand – Leave Dog – Down - Sit - Distance Commands –** ReturnWhilst moving with the dog in heel position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to stand as the Handler comes to a stop next to the dog. With the dog in a stand, the Handler leaves the dog and walks forward 3 metres, performs an about turn and halts. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to down. Once the dog is in down position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit. Once dog is in sit position, the Handler returns around the back of dog into heel position. Handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station. (Stationary exercise)**Proposal:**Sign 55 Stand – Leave Dog – Down - Sit - Distance Commands – ReturnWhilst moving with the dog in heel position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to stand as the Handler comes to a stop next to the dog. With the dog in a stand, the Handler leaves the dog and walks forward 3 metres, performs an about turn and halts. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to down. The dog must go directly from the stand position to the down position without sitting or moving forward. Once the dog is in down position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit. Once dog is in sit position, the Handler returns around the back of dog into heel position.Handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to thenext station. The maximum total movement forward from the dog will not exceed 1 body length of the dog from start to finish of the exercise (Stationary exercise) **Rationale:**The station asks for a down from a standing position, therefore, dogs should not be sitting first, and then going into the down (otherwise they are effectively doing a sit-down-sit). Dogs should not be moving forward from the stand position before going into the down either, as they are essentially breaking from position. The exercise should be done in one fluent movement. Dogs should not be surging too far forward in an exercise where the primary objective is for change of position from a distance. For the equivalent class in Obedience rules stipulate that half a body length is permissible, however, the intent of RallyO is to be more relaxed than obedience, so one full body length should be all that is permissible. This will help judges to determine if and when the station has been incorrectly performed. **14.40 DOGS QLD****Current: Sign 55. Stand – Leave Dog – Down - Sit – Distance Commands – Return -** Whilst moving with the dog in heel position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to stand as the Handler comes to a stop next to the dog. With the dog in a stand, the Handler leaves the dog and walks forward 3 metres, performs an about turn and halts. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to down. Once the dog is in down position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit. Once dog is in sit position, the Handler returns around the back of dog into heel position. Handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station. (Stationary exercise)**Proposal:**55. Stand – Leave Dog – Down - Sit – Distance Commands – Return - Whilst moving with the dog in heel position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to stand as the Handler comes to a stop next to the dog. With the dog in a stand, the Handler leaves the dog and walks forward, at least 3 metres, performs an about turn and halts. The Handler then commands and/or signals the dog to down. Once the dog is in down position, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit. Once dog is in sit position, theHandler returns around the back of dog into heel position. Handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station. (Stationary exercise)**Rationale:** To provide consistent wording for all of the distance exercises. **14.41 DOGS QLD****Current: Sign 56 Moving Stand – Leave Dog - Distance Down**Whilst heeling and without pausing, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to stand and leaves the dog to a distance atleast 3 metres, turns, halts, commands and/or signals the dog to drop, then returns around the dog and, without pausing, continues on. (Stationary exercise)**Proposal:**56. Moving Stand – Leave Dog - Distance Down – Whilst heeling and without pausing, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to stand, ~~and~~ leaves the dog ~~to a distance at~~ and walks forward at least 3 metres, turns, halts, commands and/or signals the dog to drop, then returns around the dog and, without pausing, continues on. (Stationary exercise)**Rationale:** To provide consistent wording for all of the distance exercises. |  |
|  |  |
|  **14.42 DOGS SA** |  |

**Current: Station 56 Moving Stand – Leave Dog - Distance Down**

 Whilst heeling and without pausing, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to stand and leaves the dog to a distance at least 3 metres, turns, halts, commands and/or signals the dog to drop, then returns around the dog and, without pausing, continues on.(Stationary exercise)

**Proposal:**

Moving Stand – Leave Dog - Distance Down – Whilst heeling and without pausing, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to stand and leaves the dog to a distance at least 3 metres, turns, halts, commands and/or signals the dog to drop, then returns around the dog into the heel position. The Handler must pause in the heel position before moving forward to the next station. (Stationary exercise)

**Rationale:** To be consistent with other similar stations

 **14.43 DOGS TAS**

**Proposal: Sign 56 Moving Stand – Leave Dog - Distance Down**

Whilst heeling and without pausing, the Handler commands and/or signals the dog to stand and leaves the dog to a distance of 3 metres, performs an about turn and halts. The handler then commands and/or signals the dog to drop, then returns around the dog and, without pausing, continues on with the dog in heel position. The dog must go directly from the stand position to the down position without sitting or moving forward. The maximum total movement forward from the dog will not exceed 1 body length of the dog from start to finish of the exercise (Stationary exercise)

**Rationale:**

The distance should be a set distance, not at least 3 metres, which makes it fairer for every dog and handler. My at least 3 metres could actually be 3.5 metres, and someone else’s at least 3 metres could be 2.5 metres. Every dog and handler should be completing the station to the same standard, not to approximates

Clarifies that the dog must maintain heel position when moving off after the handler has returned.

The station asks for a down from a standing position, therefore, dogs should not be sitting first, and then going into the down (otherwise they are effectively doing a sit-down). Dogs should not be moving forward from the stand position before going into the down either, as they are essentially breaking from position. The exercise should be done in one fluent movement.

Dogs should not be surging too far forward in an exercise where the primary objective is for change of position from a distance. For the equivalent class in Obedience rules stipulate that half a body length is permissible, however, the intent of RallyO is to be more relaxed than obedience, so one full body length should be all that is permissible. This will help judges to determine if and when the station has been incorrectly performed.

 **14.44 DOGS TAS**

**Current: Sign 57 Moving Down - Walk Around Dog**

Whilst 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. The dog must move forward from the down position with the Handler at completion. (Stationary exercise)

**Proposal:** Sign 57 Moving Down - Walk Around Dog

Whilst heeling and without pausing or stopping, the Handler will down the dog and walk around the dog to the left at an even pace, returning to heel position. Once the handler has reached the dog’s front left shoulder, the dog should be in a down and not break position. The Handler must pause in heel position after returning to the dog. The dog must move forward from the down position with the Handler at completion. (Stationary exercise)

**Rationale:**

The intent of this exercise is for the handler to down the dog without pausing or coming to a complete stop. Handlers have been known to come to a complete stop when getting the dog to down without being penalised. Adding the word “stopping” clarifies what the expectation is from the handler and ensures this no longer occurs

Handlers need to move at an even pace throughout the entire exercise to prevent them slowing up to re-cue the dog if it hasn’t dropped.

Allowing the handler to reach the dog’s front left shoulder before the dog is in the down position allows for dog’s who may go down slowly (for example: due to physical restrictions) a chance to get into position without being penalised.

 **14.45 DOGS TAS**

**Current: Sign 58 Moving Sit – Walk Around Dog**

Whilst 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. The dog must move forward from the sit position with the Handler at completion. (Stationary exercise)

**Proposal:** Sign 58 Moving Sit – Walk Around Dog

Whilst heeling and without pausing or stopping, the Handler will sit the dog and walk around the dog to the left at an even pace, returning to heel position. Once the handler has reached the dog’s front left shoulder, the dog should be in a sit and not break position. The Handler must pause in heel position after returning to the dog. The dog must move forward from the sit position with the Handler at completion. (Stationary exercise)

**Rationale:**

The intent of this exercise is for the handler to sit the dog without pausing or coming to a complete stop. Handlers have been known to come to a complete stop when getting the dog to sit without being penalised. Adding the word“stopping” clarifies what the expectation is from the handler and ensures this no longer occurs.

Handlers need to move at an even pace throughout the entire exercise to prevent them slowing up to re-cue the dog if it hasn’t sat.

Allowing the handler to reach the dog’s front left shoulder before the dog is in a sit allows for dog’s who may be slow responding (for example: due to physical restrictions), to get into position without being penalised.

 **14.46 DOGS TAS**

**Current: Sign 59 Halt – Leave Dog - Call To Heel**

The Handler halts and the dog sits. The Handler leaves the dog and walks forward at least 3 metres and without pausing, calls the dog to heel. The dog is expected to catch up into heel position as the Handler moves forward and before the Handler reaches the next station. The dog must not anticipate the recall and must not forge significantly ahead of the Handler when coming into heel position.(Stationary exercise)

**Proposal:**

Sign 59 Halt – Leave Dog - Call To Heel

The Handler halts and the dog sits. The Handler leaves the dog and walks forward 3 metres and without pausing, calls the dog to heel. The dog is expected to catch up into heel position as the Handler moves forward and before the Handler reaches the next station. The dog must not anticipate the recall and must not forge significantly ahead of the Handler when coming into heel position. The handler must not put their hand out to physically stop the dog from running past after the call up (Stationary exercise)

**Rationale:** The intent of the exercise is for the dog to know where heel position is from a 3 metre call up, without the handler using their hand as a stop sign continuously to prevent the dog from surging forward.

 **14.47 Dogs SA**

**Proposal:**

Sign 59 Moving Halt – Leave Dog - Call To Heel

Whilst heeling and without pausing, the Handler will sit the dog and walk forward at least 3 metres and without pausing, call the dog to heel. The dog is expected to catch up into heel position as the Handler moves forward and before the Handler reaches the next station. The dog must not anticipate the recall and must not forge significantly ahead of the Handler when coming into heel position.(Stationary exercise)

1. **PROPOSAL NEW STATIONS**
2. **NOVICE**

**16.1 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Figure 8**

This exercise requires two pylons/cones to be placed in a straight line approximately 2.5 metres apart. The exercise sign is placed near or on the first pylon or post where the exercise starts. Entry into the figure 8 is with the first pylon/cone or post at the dog/Handler’s left side. The dog and Handler must complete the entire exercise by passing the last pylon/cone before they continue to the next station.

1. **ADVANCED**

**Also refer to Dogs SA**

**17.1 DOGS VIC**

**Proposal: Moving Stations**

**U turn left, left about** **U turn right, left about**

**Left U Turn**

**Left about Turn**

 Dog and handler to complete a left U Turn

Dog and handler to complete a right U Turn travel a metre and then perform a left about turn

**Right U turn**

**Left about Turn**

travel a metre and then perform a

left about turn

**Left about turn, left u turn Left about turn, right u turn** Dog and handler to complete a left about turn

Dog and handler to complete a left about turn travel a metre and then perform a right u turn

**Left About Turn**

**Left U Turn**

**Left About Turn**

**Right U Turn**

travel a metre and then perform a

left u turn

**17.2 DOGS VIC**

**Proposal:**

**Call front, handler reverses three steps, finish**

The handlers calls the dog to the front, reverses three steps, dog moves with handler, dog returns to heel and continues heeling without stopping.

**17.3 DOGS TAS**

**Proposal:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ADVANCED****Leave Dog - About Turn – Return to Dog** .Handler halts and dog sits Handler leaves dog and walks forward 5 meters. Handler performs an About Turn then, facing the dog and without pausing, walks back toward dog. The handler will return around the back of the dog to heel position. Handler must pause and then command/cue the dog to move forward from the Sit position. The dog must not move from the Sit position and must not change position. (Stationary exercise) |  |
| **Rationale:** Leaving the dog in a sit-stay or a down-stay is presented at the lowest level class in traditional obedience. Advanced would be the appropriate class to introduce this demonstration of ability of a dog to perform a very short stay in the position in which it was placed and to introduce the dog to a stay exercise in preparation for more complex stay exercises in higher classes. | This has the added advantage to be added into the Advanced class where it is Proposal the pivot exercises are moved to the Excellent Class.The example sign is for reference only and may be redesigned as appropriate for the actual wording of the exercise such as inserting the Halt symbol. It is anticipated there would be a marker on the ground as in other current leave your dog type exercises. |

1. **EXCELLENT**

**Also refer to Dogs SA**

**18.1 DOGS VIC**

**Proposal:**

**. 180 Turn left, Heel on Right, 180 Turn Right**

The handler, while moving, signals the dog to complete a 180 degree turn to the left, at the same time turning 180 (left) toward the dog. The dog is to 'heel' on the right for a minimum of three steps. The handler then signals the dog to turn 180 to the right, at the same time turning 180 to the right. Dog is returned to heel position.

**18.2 DOGS TAS**

**Proposal:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **EXCELLENT****Leave Dog - About Turn – Recall Dog – Finish Right** Handler halts and dog sits. Handler leaves dog and walks forward 5 meters and does an about turn to face dog. Handler recalls dog. Dog comes briskly to sit in front of handler. The dog must return to heel position by moving around the right side of the Handler. Dog must sit in heel position before moving forward with the Handler. The dog must not anticipate the recall. (Stationary exercise) |  |
| **EXCELLENT****Leave Dog - About Turn – Recall Dog – Finish Left** Handler halts and dog sits. Handler leaves dog and walks forward 5 meters and does an about turn to face dog. Handler recalls dog. Dog comes briskly to sit in front of handler. The dog must return to heel position by moving around the left side of the Handler. Dog must sit in heel position before moving forward with the Handler. The dog must not anticipate the recall. (Stationary exercise) |  |
| **Rationale:** Leaving the dog in a stay for a Recall is presented at the lowest level class in traditional obedience. Excellent is the appropriate class to introduce this demonstration of ability of a dog to perform a stay and recall from short distance.These exercises have an added benefit of adding a change of direction for flexibility in design of a course. |  |
| **MASTERDouble Left About Turn –** Whilst moving with the dog in heel position, the Handler makes an about turn to the left, while at the same time, the dog must move around the Handler to the right and into heel position. The team heels 3 meters and then repeats the Left About Turn then moves forward to the next station. The dog does not sit at any time in this exercise |  |
| **Rationale:** The Left About Turn during heeling is present at the lowest level class in traditional obedience and in Rally-O. The double Left About Turn aspect of this exerciseintroduces a new and slightly more challenging feature. It also provides an extra non-stationary exercise to provide more flexibility in course design. |  |
| **MASTER****Moving Stand – Pivot Right – Forward** –Handler commands and/or signals dog to Stand as Handler comes to a halt. With the dog standing, the Handler pivots 90º to the right and the dog moves with the Handler. The dog does not sit. There is a slight pause before the team heels forward. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place. (Stationary exercise) |  |
| **MASTER****Moving Stand – Pivot Left – Forward** –Handler commands and/or signals dog to Stand as Handler comes to a halt. With the dog standing, the Handler pivots 90º to the left and the dog moves with the Handler. The dog does not sit. There is a slight pause before the team heels forward. The Handler is required to pivot by turning in place. (Stationary exercise) |  |
| **Rationale:** These two exercises would increase the variety of exercises in Rally Obedience particularly the Master Class. The complexity of rear-end awareness suits the highest level class, Master Class, and would help balance the number of exercises in each class. |  |

1. **MASTER**

**Also refer to Dogs SA**

**19.1 DOGS VIC**

**Proposal:**

 **Call Front, Circle Spin Right Finish Left**

**Moving station.**

Handler calls dog to the front, dog completes right 360 spin in front (handler continues to move backward until dog has completed spin). Send to heel left.

1. **ADVANCED**

**20.1 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Send dog around pylon/cone to the right**

The pylon/cone will be placed in the path of the dog & Handler. On approaching the pylon/cone the Handler will send the dog to go around the pylon/cone from the left hand side, emerging on the right hand side of the pylon/cone. The handler may pause while the dog moves around the pylon/cone then perform a right about turn as the dog returns around the cone and then continue to the next station as the dog returns to the heel position.

**20.2 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Send dog around pylon/cone to the left**

The pylon/cone will be placed in the path of the dog & Handler. On approaching the pylon/cone the Handler will send the dog to go around the pylon/cone from the right hand side, emerging on the left hand side of the pylon/cone. The handler may pause while the dog moves around the pylon/cone then perform a left about turn as the dog returns around the cone and then continue to the next station as the dog returns to the heel position.

**20.3 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Halt – Leave Dog - Recall** - The Handler commands and/or signals the dog to sit and stay, then leaves the dog approximately 3 metres, performs an about turn, halts and commands and/or signals the dog to come. The dog shall sit in front of the Handler. The Handler shall return to the right side of the dog by either a step back to the side or around the dog. Handler must pause upon returning to the dog. (Stationary exercise)

**20.4 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: The dog to pass through the tunnel whist the Handler passes by**

Refer Proposal replacement for station 46

**20.5 DOGS SA**

**The dog to pass through the hoop whist the Handler passes by**

Refer Proposal replacement for station 46

**20.6 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Double Left U Turn**

Whilst moving forward and without pausing the dog and Handler perform two (2) consecutive left U turns approximately two (2) metres apart and then continue towards the next station.

**20.7 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Double Right U Turn**

Whilst moving forward and without pausing the dog and Handler perform two (2) consecutive right U turns approximately two (2) metres apart and then continue towards the next station.

1. **EXCELLENT**

**21.1 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Send dog around pylon/cone to the right**

The pylon/cone will be placed in the path of the dog & Handler. On approaching the pylon/cone, from a distance of approximately two (2) metres, the Handler will send the dog to go around the pylon/cone from the left hand side, emerging on the right hand side. The handler may pause while the dog moves around the pylon/cone then perform a right about turn as the dog returns around the cone and then continue to the next station as the dog returns to the heel position.

**21.2 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Send dog around pylon/cone to the left**

The pylon/cone will be placed in the path of the dog & Handler. On approaching the pylon/cone, from a distance of approximately two (2) metres, the Handler will send the dog to go around the pylon/cone from the right hand side, emerging on the left hand side. The handler may pause while the dog moves around the pylon/cone then perform a left about turn as the dog returns around the cone and then continue to the next station as the dog returns to the heel position.

**21.3 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: The dog to pass through the tunnel whist the Handler passes by**

As above. The tunnel will be placed two metres to the left of the path of the dog and Handler. The dog must proceed through the tunnel as the Handler continues on their path to the next station.

**21.4 DOGS SA**

**Proposal:The dog to pass through the hoop whist the Handler passes by**

As above. The hoop will be placed two metres to the left of the path of the dog and Handler. The dog must proceed through the tunnel as the Handler continues on their path to the next station.

**21.5 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Move From Master Class :** Halt – Leave Dog - Call To Heel – The Handler halts and the dog sits. The Handler leaves the dog and walks forward at least 3 metres and without pausing, calls the dog to heel. The dog is expected to catch up into heel position as the Handler moves forward and before the Handler reaches the next station. The dog must not anticipate the recall and must not forge significantly ahead of the Handler when coming into heel position.(Stationary exercise)

**21.6 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Halt – Dog circles handler – Forward**

The Handler halts and without the dog pausing or sitting sends the dog in a circle to the right so that the dog moves around the back of the handler to the heel position. The handler then moves forward to the next station. The dog does not pause or sit either before it is sent around the handler or when returning to the heel position.

**21.6 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Double U Turn Left/Right**

Whilst moving forward and without pausing the dog and Handler perform a left U turn, proceed approximately two (2) metres, perform a right U turn and then continue towards the next station.

**21.7 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Double U Turn Right/Left**

Whilst moving forward and without pausing the dog and Handler perform a right U turn, proceed approximately two (2) metres, perform a left U turn and then continue towards the next station.

1. **MASTER**

**22.1 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Back Away 3 Steps**

Whilst heeling and without pausing, the handler calls the dog to front and without allowing the dog to sit, immediately commands the dog to back away from the handler in a straight line for a minimum of 3 steps with the handler advancing with the dog, then without pausing, calls the dog to finish and again without pausing, move forward. The dog will move backwards at 90 degrees to the front of the Handler.

**22.2 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: The dog to pass through the tunnel whist the Handler passes by**

As above. The tunnel will be placed three (3) metres to the left of the path of the dog and Handler. The dog must proceed through the tunnel as the Handler continues on their path to the next station.

**22.3 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: The dog to pass through the hoop whist the Handler passes by**

As above. The hoop will be placed three (3) metres to the left of the path of the dog and Handler. The dog must proceed through the tunnel as the Handler continues on their path to the next station.

**22.4 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Send dog around pylon/cone to the right**

The pylon/cone will be placed in the path of the dog & Handler. On approaching the pylon/cone, from a distance of approximately three (3), the Handler will send the dog to go around the pylon/cone from the left hand side, emerging on the right hand side. The handler may pause while the dog moves around the pylon/cone then perform a right about turn as the dog returns around the cone and then continue to the next station as the dog returns to the heel position.

**22.5 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Send dog around pylon/cone to the left**

The pylon/cone will be placed in the path of the dog & Handler. On approaching the pylon/cone, from a distance of approximately three (3)) metres, the Handler will send the dog to go around the pylon/cone from the right hand side, emerging on the left hand side. The handler may pause while the dog moves around the pylon/cone then perform a left about turn as the dog returns around the cone and then continue to the next station as the dog returns to the heel position.

**22.6 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Circle Spin Right at Heel**

The dog to complete a circle of the Handler to the right hand side from the heel position and then to return to heel. The Handler does not stop moving.

**22.7 DOGS SA**

**Proposal: Serpentine as Handler passes by**

This exercise requires pylons or posts placed in a straight line with spaces between them of approximately 2.0 – 2.5 metres. The exercise sign is placed near or on the first pylon or post where the exercise starts. The dog enters the weaving pattern with the first pylon or post at its left side. The dog must complete the entire exercise by passing the last pylon or post. The Handler does not enter the Serpentine but continues on their path to the next station, collecting their dog after it has completed the Serpentine.

**22.8 DOGS QLD:**

**Proposal: Change to Appendix B**

**APPENDIX B**

**ANKC LTD RALLY OBEDIENCE JUDGE’S CHART**

Club: Date:

Class: Judge:

Stewards: …………………………………………………………………………………….…………

Start time: …………………………………. Finish time: ………………………….

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| **Cat no.** | **Time** | **Points****Lost** | **Score****( /100)** | **Q****(place)** |  | **Cat no.** | **Time** | **Points****Lost** | **Score****( /100)** | **Q****(place)** |
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**Signature of Judge:** …………………………………….

**Rationale:**

Adding spaces to this form to record Stewards’ names and start & finish time of the class will make it easier for the Trial Manager and Trial Secretary to prepare the various trial reports.