

**BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR  
DOG DEPARTMENT 22; DIVISION 1 & 2**

**RALLY INCLUSIVE  
JUDGING PROCEDURES,  
PROGRAM  
AND GUIDELINES**



*Approved by the Berrien County Youth Fair Dog Department in 2012*

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**BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR**  
**RALLY INCLUSIVE JUDGING PROGRAM AND GUIDELINES**  
*Divisions 1 & 2*  
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**Rally Introduction**

Berrien County Youth Fair Rally Obedience “... is a sport in which the dog and the handler complete a course that has been designed by a Rally judge.”<sup>1</sup>

The judge will tell the traditional or non-traditional exhibitor to begin and the team, consisting of the canine, the exhibitor and, in the case of the non-traditional rally team, one or two Team Instructor(s), “... will proceed at a brisk pace to designated stations. Each station has a sign providing instructions on the dog obedience exercise that is to be performed at a station by the team. Upon performing the dog obedience exercise, the team then moves onto the next station and proceeds to accomplish the dog obedience exercise.”<sup>2</sup>

“There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during the numbered exercises and between the exercise signs; however, a perfect heel position is not required.”<sup>3</sup>

Faults and deductions will be the same faults and deductions found in the American Kennel Club Rally Regulations, unless otherwise stated in the Berrien County Youth Fair Rally Regulations, Judging Procedures and Guidelines.

After the Rally judge’s order to “Forward,” the exhibitor’s team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered Rally signs correctly. Unless specified in the American Kennel Club Rally Regulations and/or the Berrien County Youth Fair Rally Regulations, Judging Procedures and Guidelines, the exhibitor is permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and/or hand signals, clap his/her hands, pat his/her leg or use any verbal means of encouragement. The exhibitor must move in a natural manner that is normal for him or her. The exhibitor’s arms need not be maintained in any particular position.

Loud or harsh commands, intimidating signals, touching the dog (unless specified in the Rally Obedience Regulations), or any physical correction will be penalized.

**PLEASE NOTE:** A list of the Rally Signs that may be used on a Rally course may be picked up on Sunday, Entry Day, at the Berrien County Youth Fair’s Entry Office when confirming classes.

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<sup>1</sup> AKC Rally Introduction page 126.

<sup>2</sup> AKC Rally Introduction page 126.

<sup>3</sup> AKC Rally Introduction page 126.

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**CHAPTER ONE GLOSSARY AND DEFINITIONS**

The following terms shall be communicated and understood to be defined as ...

1. **Autism Meltdown** – An exhibitor that is receiving an overload of outside stimulus that he or she has become psychologically and physically unable to process the information, and begins to shut down mentally in the form of anger and confusion. Personal safety may be compromised and fatigue and noncompliance in any communication form may become a factor. Exhibitor is not goal dependent and may require assistance to gain control of him or herself.
2. **Bitch** – A female canine.
3. **Canine** – A dog and/or bitch that is
  - a) Owned by the traditional exhibitor according to the Berrien County Youth Fair’s Dog Department General Regulations A.
  - b) Has been volunteered by its owner to work with the nontraditional exhibitor in accordance with the Berrien County Youth Fair’s Canine Exhibitor with Disability Regulations.
4. **“Control” or “Heel” Position** –
  - a) For the Traditional Exhibitor – Canine is sitting on left side of exhibitor facing the same direction.
  - b) For the Non- Traditional Exhibitor – Due to the canine’s or exhibitor’s disability, canine is sitting on left side or right side of exhibitor facing the same direction.
5. **Disability** – A persistent physical or mental defect, weakness, or handicap which prevents a person from engaging in ordinary activities or normal life, or from performing a specific job.
6. **Dog** – A male canine.
7. **Excused** – The judge’s justification to ask an exhibitor to leave the obedience ring without completing the obedience itinerary. An invitation to return to the obedience ring will be withheld and penalties will be given.
8. **Exhibitor** – A person who has entered a Rally Obedience competition.
9. **Exhibitor’s Team** –
  - a) **For the Traditional Exhibitor** - A team of two consisting of the exhibitor and the canine.
  - b) **For the Non-Traditional Exhibitor** – A team of three or more consisting of the exhibitor with a life challenge (*disability, handicap*), the canine and one or two team instructor(s).
10. **Incorrectly Performed Station (IP)** – One or more principal parts of a station was not performed or performed incorrectly.
11. **Judge** – The person evaluating the performance of the exhibitor’s team in the Rally obedience competition.
12. **Lame** – Irregularity or impairment of the function of locomotion, irrespective of the cause or how slight or severe.
13. **Luring** – The appearance of having a reward in hand. Example would be holding the thumb and/or fingers together as if holding a treat.

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14. **Natural Manner** – The gait is not artificial, free from affectation; what is expected in the home and/or public places.
15. **Non-Traditional Exhibitor** – (*Abbreviation is NTR*) A person with a life challenge (*disability, handicap*) who cannot meet the American Kennel Club competition handling standards of one handler to one canine without the aid of a team instructor(s).
16. **Pause** – A complete stop of forward motion by the exhibitor.
17. **Pivot** – Turning in a circle occupied by the exhibitor before the team start to turn; a turn in place.
18. **Pleading** – Repeated urgent commands and/or signals to elicit the proper behavior from the dog while the dog remains unresponsive to the exhibitor’s commands and/or signals.
19. **Release** – The judge’s permission to leave the Rally ring before completing the Rally station due to medical, psychological and/or physical cause. An invitation to return to the Rally ring will be given and penalties withheld.
20. **Repeat of a Station or Retry** – A station that is repeated in its entirety, including approach, before beginning the next station.
21. **Service Dog** – A canine that has been specially trained to assist the exhibitor with his or her disability, yet still accomplish the obedience exercises that is asked of it by the exhibitor.
22. **Station Not Attempted by the Exhibitor (SNA)** – A Rally station that has been skipped or missed by the exhibitor before attempting the next station.
23. **Team Instructor** – The person or persons working and assisting the exhibitor’s team in the Rally ring.
24. **Therapy Dog** – A trained and temperament tested canine who provides affection and comfort during stressful situations, yet still accomplishes the obedience exercises asked of it by the exhibitor.
25. **Traditional Exhibitor** – (*Abbreviation is TR*) A person who meets the American Kennel Club competition handling standards one handler to one canine and does not need the aid of a Team Instructor.
26. **Valid Certification** – A document signed by a licensed veterinarian, stating that the canine has received the required immunizations and/or is in need of special canine training equipment.
27. **Wicket** – The measurement from the dog’s withers to the ground. Wickets are measured in inches.

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**CHAPTER TWO RALLY GENERAL REGULATIONS**

The American Kennel Club Rally Regulations, effective April 1, 2013, will be adhered to with the following modifications ...

1. **Entry of a Canine** – The Berrien County Youth Fair Dog Department General Rules shall apply when entering a canine in Rally.
2. **Rally Obedience Dress and Grooming Code** –
  - a. **Exhibitor’s Acceptable Attire** - Exhibitor may wear shorts that are knee length, slacks, skirts below the knee, or capris, with a belt if appropriate. Short or long sleeve shirt, blouse, or polo shirt with a collar. Shoes should be clean, flat or low heeled, and in good repair. Athletic and medical shoes are acceptable. Should the exhibitor choose not to follow the dress code, he or she will be penalized up to minus (-) sixty (60) points.
  - b. **Exhibitor’s Unacceptable Attire** – Exhibitor may not wear shorts (mini or mid-thigh) that are not knee length, spaghetti straps, halter or tube tops, low cut shirts, blouse or pants, **BLUE JEANS**, tops with offensive or inappropriate language, graphics or logo T-Shirts, nor clothing with holes. Exhibitor may not wear any clothing that exposes the midriff, or hangs loose from the waist exposing one’s buttocks, and/or exposing one’s chest.
  - c. **Canine Grooming Code** – Canine shall be clean and groomed according to breed standards, or to the breed standards the canine closest resembles. Clean collar or harness and leashes should be used. Coat should be free of fleas, lice, mites and/or ticks, and not dirty or matted. Eye and ears should be clean, and nails and paws should be trimmed. Should the exhibitor choose not to groom his/her canine prior to entering the Rally Wicket Ring, he or she will be penalized up to thirty-eight points.
  - d. **Dress and Grooming Penalties** – Exhibitor and canine will be penalized up to minus fifty-eight (58) points should either not meet the dress and grooming code standards.
3. **Rally Leash Rule** – Exhibitor’s canine shall be kept on a leash and that leash will be attached to a human hand, except when in the Rally Obedience ring or crated. Canine will enter and leave the Rally Obedience ring on leash. Leash may be made of leather or fabric and should be four to six feet in length.
4. **Rally Canine Collar or Harness Rule** – Exhibitor’s canine must wear a well fitted **tagless** buckle and/or slip collar, or, a body harness. Slip collar of an appropriate length can be made of leather, fabric or chain with one ring on each end. Volhard (*Snap*) collars are acceptable. **Pinch collars and head halters are unacceptable.**
5. **Treats and/or Bait** – Dog treats and bait will not be permitted in the Rally Obedience ring.
6. **Bitch in Season** – Should a bitch come into season, the bitch shall wear “**Bloomers**” (*panties*) with an absorbent pad adhered to the inside. The exhibitor must inform the Rally Dog Show Committee when picking up his or her Berrien County Youth Fair back tag number. The bitch in season shall be isolated from all other canines until needed in the ring and will be shown out of judging order by being last in the ring.
7. **Exhibitor Acquires A New Canine** – Should the exhibitor acquire a new canine after he/she has begun his/her Berrien County Youth Fair’s Rally Career, he/she must enter the new team in the appropriate age Rally Beginner class.
8. **List of Rally Signs in Preparation for Rally Event** – On Sunday, Entry Day the exhibitor will receive a list of rally exercises that may or may not be used by the Rally judge for the Rally Competition.
9. **Scores and Ribbons** – Scores and ribbons will be passed out after completion of tallying all the Rally judge’s scoresheets.
10. **Rally Judge’s Scoresheet** – Exhibitor can pick his or her Rally judge’s scoresheet at the Registration Table from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, or from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday. If scoresheet has not been picked up by 3:00 p.m. Thursday, scoresheet becomes the property of the Berrien County Youth Fair.



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**CHAPTER THREE                      BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR DOG SHOW ETIQUETTE**

1. **Exhibitor's Responsibility** – It is the exhibitor's responsibility to be fully ready to enter the Wicket and Rally Ring at the proper time.
2. **Cleaning Up After Canine** – Should the exhibitor's canine defecate in or outside of the Rally Ring, the exhibitor will clean it up and dispose of the feces in the proper dust bin. Should the exhibitor be found not to have cleaned up after his/her canine's defecation within a timely manner, the exhibitor will be penalized fifteen points automatically.
3. **Spectator's Etiquette** –
  - a) Spectator(s) cannot give, and/or attempt to give assistance, interfere, or try and control the canine from outside of the Rally Ring.
  - b) Should the spectator(s) be observed to give and/or attempt to give assistance, interfere, or try and control the canine from outside of the Rally Ring, the exhibitor shall be substantially penalized which may result in all premiums, trophies, rosettes and ribbons being withheld.

**CHAPTER FOUR                      RALLY TITLES, RIBBONS AND AWARDS**

1. **Rally Titles** –
  - a. The Berrien County Youth Fair Rally event is not an American Kennel Club or a United Kennel Club sanction dog show or dog match. Therefore Rally titles cannot be earned.
  - b. Rally will be included in Traditional High Point Dog Exhibitor Award.
2. **Berrien County Youth Fair Premiums** – Berrien County Youth Fair premiums will be offered for Rally Classes.
3. **Rally Class Ribbons** –
  - a) **Rally Class Placement Ribbons** of first through sixth place will be awarded upon completion of tallying all the Rally Judge's Scoresheets.
  - b) The following Berrien County Youth Fair Passing Score Ribbons will be passed out for Rally Obedience – **For Rally Classes**:
    - **BLUE RIBBON (80–100 points)** - To earn a Blue Ribbon the exhibitor's team must earn a score of seventy points to one-hundred points. This qualifies the exhibitor's team to advance to the next class level. **MAGNIFICENT!!!!**
    - **RED RIBBON (51-79 points)** - To earn a Red Ribbon the exhibitor's team must earn a score of thirty-six points to sixty-nine points. The exhibitor's team is making great strides! It won't be long before he or she will move up!
    - **WHITE RIBBON (0-50 points)** - To earn a White Ribbon the exhibitor's team must earn a score of zero points to thirty-five points. He or she should keep working and stay focused. He or she will get it!
4. **High Score Overall Championships** –
  - a. **Rally Young Beginner's Class, Rally Beginner's Class, and Rally Advanced Beginner's Class will not qualify** for Rally Grand Champion, Rally Reserve Grand Champion, or Overall placement.
  - b. **First through Sixth Place for High Score Overall** - The first place class winner of Rally Novice A and B, Rally Advanced A and B, Rally Excellent A and B classes, will have an opportunity for the following rosettes...
    1. Rally Grand Champion
    2. Rally Reserve Grand Champion
    3. Third Place Overall
    4. Fourth Place Overall
    5. Fifth Place Overall
    6. Sixth Place Overall

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- c. **Overall Placement for Tie Score** – In the event of a tie score for Overall Placement, the judge will have the teams execute a rally course of ten (10) rally exercises. All exercises will be executed on lead. Should there still be a tie after points have been calculated, then the exhibitor's time will be the deciding factor.

**CHAPTER FIVE RALLY RING SET UP**

1. **List of Rally Exercises – Two weeks before** the Berrien County Youth Fair's Rally competition, the judge will submit to the Rally Coordinator a map of the Rally Course(s) he or she will be using for each Rally class. The Rally Class Course Maps will be made available one hour prior to judging.
2. **Purpose of Designing a Rally Course** – While keeping in mind that some of the exhibitors might be walking or using a wheelchair, walker and/or crutches, the main purpose of a rally course is
  - a) To properly evaluate the canine and exhibitor's team work.
  - b) To establish consistency from team to team.
  - c) For efficient time management.
3. **Rally Ring Space** – The rally ring size shall be forty feet by fifty feet at a minimum, or fifty feet by seventy feet at a maximum.
4. **Wicket Ring Space** – The wicket ring size shall be forty feet by fifty feet maximum.
5. **Floor Covering** – The floor covering or ground surface must be the same as would be suitable for traditional American Kennel Club Obedience trials.
6. **Rally Signs and Holders** –
  - a) The American Kennel Club Rally Obedience designated wording and symbols must be used.
  - b) Signs must be a minimum of eight and one-half inches by eleven inches and a maximum of eleven inches by seventeen inches.
  - c) Weather conditions should be considered when securing signs and holders.
  - d) Colors used are optional.
  - e) Twenty exercise sign holders are required plus one each for the "START" and "FINISH" signs and the "CALL TO HEEL" marker.
  - f) All sign holders or signs (not including "START," "FINISH," and "CALL TO HEEL" markers) will be clearly and sequentially numbered on the course, with numbers approximately three inches high.
  - g) Signs with an asterisk (\*) (numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, 103 and 299) may be used multiple times on a Rally course.
  - h) Two of each signs must be available for the judge's use.
  - i) All other signs may only be used once on any course.
  - j) Stationary exercises are any signs indicating a "HALT" or no "FORWARD" motion.
7. **Placement of Signs** –
  - a) Signs will be placed to the right of the handler's path, giving attention to the fact that a wheelchair, walker, and/or crutches may be used.
  - b) Rally signs giving change of direction will be placed directly in front of the team to aid in that change of direction.
  - c) Exercises using cones may require entry of the sign on the left.
  - d) Exact placement of signs is made by the judge while walking the course along the path that will be taken by the exhibitor.
8. **Exercise Performance Location In Relation to Sign** –
  - a) Except for exercises requiring entry with the sign on the left, exercises are performed near the designated signs, either directly in front of the sign or in front and to the left of the sign.
  - b) For stations where the handler and canine are required to make a side-step to the right or the left, the sign shall be placed in the initial path of the exhibitors' team, thus requiring the team to make an adequate sidestep to the right or left in order to pass the sign on the correct side.

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**CHAPTER SIX                      WICKET JUDGING**

1. **Purpose of Wicket Judging** – The purpose of wicketing is
  - a. To teach the exhibitor the proper way to measure his or her canine for rally jump height and distance.
  - b. To visually give an agreed upon and printed measurement that the exhibitor can comprehend for his or her canine’s rally jump height and distance.
  - c. To teach and assess if the exhibitor’s meets the Berrien County Youth Fair’s Dress Code.
  - d. To teach and tactilely assess if the canine meets the Berrien County Youth Fair’s Canine Grooming Code.
2. **Procedure for Wicket Judging** –
  - a. The Wicket Judge will visually assess the exhibitor’s attire and make a judgment on whether he or she meets the Dress Code Standards.
  - b. The Wicket Judge will visually and tactilely examine the exhibitor’s canine and make a judgment on whether the canine meets the Grooming Code Standards.
  - c. The Wicket Judge will measure the dog’s height at the withers and record the measurement on the exhibitor’s scoresheet and a 3 by 5 card. The judge will present the 3x5 card to the exhibitor.
  - d. The Wicket Judge will then record, on the exhibitor’s scoresheet, the following...
    1. Jump Height the dog must jump over.
    2. Broad Jump Distance the dog must jump over.
    3. Circle how many Broad Jump Boards the dog must jump over.
3. **Penalties for not meeting the Dress and Grooming Code Standards** are as follows...
  - a. **Exhibitor’s Unacceptable Attire** – minus up to 20 points. (*See Chapter Two; Paragraph 3.a*)
  - b. **Canine’s Unacceptable Grooming** -
    1. **Coat** – If the canine’s coat is not clean, smooth, not scaly and free from loose fur, it is minus 13 points.
    2. **Canine’s Ears** – If the canine’s ears are not clean inside, it is minus 5 points.
    3. **Canine’s Eyes** – If the canine’s eyes are not clean and clear (Ectropion and Entropion not included), it is minus 5 points.
    4. **Canine’s Paws** – If the canine’s paws are not neat and trimmed, it is minus 5 points.
    5. **Canine’s Toe Nails** – If the canine’s toe nails are not neat and trimmed, it is minus 5 points.
    6. **General Absence of fleas, ticks, lice and mites** – Should the Canine have an abundance of fleas, ticks, lice and mites on his or her body, it is minus 5 points.

**CHAPTER SEVEN                      RALLY JUDGING**

1. **Judge’s Authority and Decision** – **THE RALLY JUDGE’S DECISION IS FINAL.** The judge has absolute control of the Rally ring with unquestioned authority over the exhibitor’s team. It is the judge’s responsibility to assess the exhibitor’s team and give a score that the judge believes the team has earned according to an **adaptive version** of the American Kennel Club’s Rally Regulations found at <http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf> on the internet.
2. **Rally Signs** – The Rally judge shall use the American Kennel Club’s Rally signs and descriptions found in the AKC’s Rally Regulations Rally Signs and Descriptions, from the AKC Rally Regulations amended to November 1, 2017.
3. **Judging the Non-Traditional Exhibitor** – Depending on the life disability, the non-traditional exhibitor may be
  - a) Judged with one or two Team Instructors and one or two leashes attached to the canine’s collar thus ensuring the continuation of safety for the team.
  - b) The Team Instructor will either work aside, work beside, work behind or work in front of the exhibitor giving questioning instructions to the exhibitor to make him or her stop and think.

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- c) **Unless the exhibitor has absolutely no communication skills**, the team instructor will not touch, nor will he/she give the commands to the canine through the Rally course.
- d) **In the case of the exhibitor with no communication and/or motor skills**, he/she must hang onto the leash and let go of the leash at the proper moments throughout the Rally course, while the Team Instructor guides the canine through the course. Deductions will be given for every time the exhibitor drops the leash.
- e) When the non-traditional exhibitor enters the Rally ring, the Team Instructor's leash will either be attached or not attached to the canine's collar.
- f) Should the judge find it difficult to evaluate a Non-Traditional team due to the severity of the exhibitor's disability, the judge will focus attention on the canine's performance.
- g) **Judge will automatically deduct three (3) points from the exhibitor's score for NTR exhibitor having assistance in the rally ring.**
4. **TR Exhibitor's Parent or Guardian in the Rally Ring – TR exhibitor WILL NOT have assistance or shadowing from a parent or guardian in the rally ring.**
5. **Judging the Traditional Exhibitor** – Traditional exhibitor shall be judged in a relaxed version of the American Kennel Club's Rally Regulations.
6. **Rally Judging Schedule** – The Rally judging schedule will be decided by the Rally Dog Show Committee giving considerations to the severity of the Non-Traditional exhibitor first.
7. **Exhibitor's Identification Number** – The handler shall wear his/her Berrien County Youth Fair Identification Number pinned to the back of his/her outermost garment or wheelchair.
8. **Familiarization Time** – The course for each class will be posted at ringside when the judge arrives. A ten minute walk through for each class will be allowed for the exhibitors without his/her canine. The judge will be in the ring while the walk through is in progress to brief the exhibitor and answer questions.
9. **Judge's Instructions to Exhibitor** – The judge's commands for initiating the beginning of a Rally course will be "ARE YOU READY," and "FORWARD." The judge will issue no other commands unless the exhibitor has unforeseen physical or psychological problems, at which time the judge may issue a command of "YOU ARE RELEASED FROM THE RING," or "YOU ARE EXCUSED FROM THE RING." No other communication should be necessary from the Rally Judge.
10. **Timing** – Exhibitor's team will be timed. Timing will begin when the judge gives the order of "FORWARD" and will end when the team crosses the "FINISH" station. Time will be recorded but not posted. Time will be used only if a tie for class placement occurs.

## **CHAPTER EIGHT**

## **RALLY CLASSES AND ADVANCEMENT**

1. **Acquiring a New Canine** - Should the exhibitor acquire a new canine after he/she has begun his/her Berrien County Youth Fair's Rally Career, he/she must enter the new team in Rally Beginners.
2. **Which Class Do I Begin In?** – Depending upon the exhibitor's age, rally teams will begin his/her in Rally career in either **Rally Young Beginners** (age 5 to 8 years of age) or **Rally Beginners** (age 9 years of age and up).
3. **Rally Young Beginners** –
  - a) **Eligibility** – Ages 5 to 8 years. Rally Young Beginners is for the inexperienced exhibitor's team that has never shown in Rally Obedience before. Young Beginner may have a parent or Team Instructor in the ring with him or her but three (3) points will automatically be deducted for parent or Team Instructor entering the rally ring with exhibitor.
  - b) **Leash** - Rally Young Beginners is judged on leash with the canine entering and leaving the wicket ring and the rally ring on leash.
  - c) **Stations** – Rally Young Beginners shall have ten to twelve stations with "START" and "FINISH" not included.

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- d) **Exhibitor's Communication to his/her Canine** – The exhibitor is permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and/or hand signals, clap his/her hands, pat his/her leg or use any verbal means of encouragement. The handler must move in a natural manner that is normal for him or her. The handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position. Loud or harsh command, intimidating signals, touching the dog or any physical corrections will be penalized.
  - e) **Class Advancement** - Upon earning a qualifying score of 80 to 100 points, the exhibitor and canine will advance to Rally Beginners Class.
  - f) **Trophy** – Class trophies will be awarded. Rally Young Beginner's Class **will not** be eligible for High Score Overall and Rally Grand Champion and Rally Reserve Grand Champion.
4. **Rally Beginners** –
- a) **Eligibility** – Ages 9 years and up. Rally Beginners is for the inexperienced exhibitor's team that has never shown in Rally Obedience before, or has earned a qualifying score in Rally Young Beginners.
  - b) **Leash** - Rally Beginners is judged on leash with the canine entering and leaving the wicket ring and the rally ring on leash.
  - c) **Stations** – Rally Beginners shall have ten to twelve stations with “START” and “FINISH” not included.
  - d) **Exhibitor's Communication to his/her Canine** – The exhibitor is permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and/or hand signals, clap his/her hands, pat his/her leg or use any verbal means of encouragement. The handler must move in a natural manner that is normal for him or her. The handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position. Loud or harsh command, intimidating signals, touching the dog or any physical corrections will be penalized.
  - e) **Class Advancement** - Upon earning a qualifying score of 80 to 100 points, the exhibitor and canine will advance to Rally Advanced Beginners Class.
  - f) **Trophy** - Class trophies will be awarded. Rally Beginner's Class **will not** be eligible for High Score Overall and Rally Grand Champion and Rally Reserve Grand Champion.
5. **Rally Advanced Beginners** –
- a) **Eligibility** – Rally Advanced Beginners is for the somewhat experienced exhibitor's team that has shown in Rally Obedience and has earned a qualifying score in Rally Beginners.
  - b) **Leash** - Rally Advanced Beginners are judged on leash with the canine entering and leaving the wicket ring and the rally ring on leash.
  - c) **Stations** – Rally Advanced Beginners shall have ten to fifteen stations with “START” and “FINISH” not included.
  - d) **Exhibitor's Communication to his/her Canine** – The exhibitor is permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and/or hand signals, clap his/her hands, pat his/her leg or use any verbal means of encouragement. The handler must move in a natural manner that is normal for him or her. The handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position. Loud or harsh command, intimidating signals, touching the dog or any physical corrections will be penalized.
  - e) **Class Advancement** - Upon earning a qualifying score of 80 to 100 points, the exhibitor and canine will advance to **Rally Intermediate A Class**.
  - f) **Trophy** - Class trophies will be awarded. Rally Advanced Beginner's Class **will not** qualify for High Score Overall and Rally Grand Champion and Rally Reserve Grand Champion.
6. **Rally Intermediate A Class** –
- a) **Eligibility** – Rally Intermediate A Class is for the experienced exhibitor's team that has shown in Rally Obedience and has earned a qualifying score in Rally Advanced Beginners.
  - b) **Leash** - Rally Intermediate A is judged ON LEASH with the canine entering and leaving the wicket ring and the rally ring on leash.

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- c) **Stations** – Rally Advanced Beginners shall have twelve to seventeen stations with “START” and “FINISH” not included.
  - d) **Exhibitor’s Communication to his/her Canine** – The exhibitor is permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and/or hand signals, clap his/her hands, pat his/her leg or use any verbal means of encouragement. The handler must move in a natural manner that is normal for him or her. The handler’s arms need not be maintained in any particular position. Loud or harsh command, intimidating signals, touching the dog or any physical corrections will be penalized.
  - e) **Class Advancement** - Upon earning a qualifying score of 80 to 100 points, the exhibitor and canine will advance to Rally Intermediate B Class.
  - f) **Trophy** - Class trophies will be awarded. Rally Advanced Beginner’s Class **WILL NOT** qualify for High Score Overall and Rally Grand Champion and Rally Reserve Grand Champion.
7. **Rally Intermediate B Class** –
- a) **Eligibility** – Rally Intermediate B Class is for the experienced exhibitor’s team that has shown in Rally Obedience and has earned a qualifying score in Rally Intermediate A Class.
  - b) **Leash** - Rally Intermediate B is judged ON LEASH with the canine entering and leaving the wicket ring and the rally ring on leash.
  - c) **Stations** – Rally Intermediate B shall have twelve to seventeen stations with “START” and “FINISH” not included.
  - d) **Exhibitor’s Communication to his/her Canine** – The exhibitor is permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and/or hand signals, clap his/her hands, pat his/her leg or use any verbal means of encouragement. The handler must move in a natural manner that is normal for him or her. The handler’s arms need not be maintained in any particular position. Loud or harsh command, intimidating signals, touching the dog or any physical corrections will be penalized.
  - e) **Class Advancement** - Upon earning a qualifying score of 80 to 100 points, the exhibitor and canine will advance to Rally Novice A Class.
  - f) **Trophy** - Class trophies will be awarded. Rally Novice A Class **WILL** qualify for High Score Overall and Rally Grand Champion and Rally Reserve Grand Champion.
8. **Rally Novice A Class** –
- a) **Eligibility** - Rally Novice A is for the experienced exhibitor’s team that has earned a qualifying score in Rally Advanced Beginners, or he/she has earned an American Kennel Club or United Kennel Club Rally Novice Title (RN).
  - b) **Leash** - Rally Novice A is judged ON LEASH with the canine ENTERING AND LEAVING the rally ring ON LEASH.
  - c) **Stations** - Rally Novice A will have between ten and fifteen stations with “START” and “FINISH” not included.
  - d) **Stationary Exercises** - There will be a minimum of three and a maximum of five stationary exercises.
  - e) **Jumps** – Jumps will not be included in Rally Novice A.
  - f) **Exhibitor’s Communication to his/her Canine** – The exhibitor is permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and/or hand signals, clap his/her hands, pat his/her leg or use any verbal means of encouragement. The handler must move in a natural manner that is normal for him or her. The handler’s arms need not be maintained in any particular position. Loud or harsh command, intimidating signals, touching the dog or any physical corrections will be penalized.
  - g) **Class Advancement** - Upon earning a qualifying score of 80 to 100 points, the exhibitor and canine will advance to Rally Novice B Class.
  - h) **Trophy** - Class trophies will be awarded. Rally Novice A Class **will** qualify for High Score Overall and Rally Grand Champion and Rally Reserve Grand Champion.

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**9. Rally Novice B Class –**

- a) **Eligibility** - To be eligible for Rally Novice B Class the exhibitor must have earned a qualifying score in Rally Novice A.
- a) **Leash** - Rally Novice B is judged ON LEASH with the canine ENTERING AND LEAVING the rally ring ON LEASH.
- b) **Stations** - Rally Novice B will have between ten and fifteen stations with “START” and “FINISH” not included.
- c) **Stationary Exercises** - There will be a minimum of three and a maximum of five stationary exercises.
- d) **Jumps** – Jumps will not be included in Rally Novice B.
- e) **Exhibitor’s Communication to his/her Canine** – The exhibitor is permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and/or hand signals, clap his/her hands, pat his/her leg or use any verbal means of encouragement. The handler must move in a natural manner that is normal for him or her. The handler’s arms need not be maintained in any particular position. Loud or harsh command, intimidating signals, touching the dog or any physical corrections will be penalized.
- f) **Class Advancement** - Upon earning a qualifying score of 80 to 100 points, the exhibitor and canine will advance to Rally Advanced A Class.
- g) **Trophy** - Class trophies will be awarded. Rally Novice B Class **will** qualify for High Score Overall and Rally Grand Champion and Rally Reserve Grand Champion.

**10. Rally Advanced A Class –**

- b) **Eligibility** – To be eligible for Rally Advanced A Class, the exhibitor must have earned a qualifying score in Rally Novice B.
- c) **Leash** - Rally Advanced A is judged OFF LEASH with the canine ENTERING AND LEAVING the rally ring ON LEASH.
- d) **Stations** - Rally Advanced A will have between ten and seventeen stations with “START” and “FINISH” not included.
- e) **Stationary Exercises** - There will be a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary exercises with three advanced level stations.
- f) **Jumps** – One required jump.
- g) **Exhibitor’s Communication to his/her Canine** – The exhibitor is permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and/or hand signals, clap his/her hands, pat his/her leg or use any verbal means of encouragement. The handler must move in a natural manner that is normal for him or her. The handler’s arms need not be maintained in any particular position. Loud or harsh command, intimidating signals, touching the dog or any physical corrections will be penalized.
- h) **Class Advancement** - Upon earning a qualifying score of 80 to 100 points, the exhibitor and canine will advance to Rally Advanced B.
- i) **Trophy** - Class trophies will be awarded. Rally Advanced A Class **will** qualify for High Score Overall and Rally Grand Champion and Rally Reserve Grand Champion.

**11. Rally Advanced B Class –**

- a) **Eligibility** – To be eligible for Rally Advanced B Class, the exhibitor must have earned a qualifying score in Rally Novice B.
- b) **Leash** - Rally Advanced B is judged OFF LEASH with the canine ENTERING AND LEAVING the rally ring ON LEASH.
- c) **Stations** - Rally Advanced B will have between ten and seventeen stations with “START” and “FINISH” not included.
- d) **Stationary Exercises** - There will be a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary exercises with three advanced level stations.
- e) **Jumps** – One required jump.

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- f) **Exhibitor's Communication to his/her Canine** – The exhibitor is permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and/or hand signals, clap his/her hands, pat his/her leg or use any verbal means of encouragement. The handler must move in a natural manner that is normal for him or her. The handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position. Loud or harsh command, intimidating signals, touching the dog or any physical corrections will be penalized.
  - g) **Class Advancement** - Upon earning a qualifying score of 80 to 100 points, the exhibitor and canine will advance to Rally Excellent A.
  - h) **Trophy** - Class trophies will be awarded. Rally Advanced B Class **will** qualify for High Score Overall and Rally Grand Champion and Rally Reserve Grand Champion.
12. **Rally Excellent A Class** –
- a) **Eligibility** - To be eligible for Rally Excellent A Class, the exhibitor must have earned a qualifying score in Rally Advanced B.
  - b) **Leash** – Rally Excellent A is judged OFF LEASH with the canine ENTERING AND LEAVING the rally ring ON LEASH.
  - c) **Stations** - Rally Excellent A will have between fifteen and twenty stations with the “SIT-STAY” being included. “START,” “FINISH” and “CALL TO HEEL” will not be included.
  - d) **Stationary Exercises** - There will be a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary exercises with two advanced level stations and three excellent level stations.
  - e) **Jumps** – Two required jumps.
  - f) **Exhibitor's Communication to his/her Canine** – The handler IS NOT permitted to pat his/her leg or clap his/her hands to encourage the canine. Verbal encouragement, multiple commands and/or inaudible signals using one or both arms are allowed. The handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position. The exhibitor may not touch his/her canine or make any physical contact.
  - g) **Class Advancement** - Upon earning a qualifying score of 80 to 100 points, the exhibitor and canine will advance to Rally Excellent B.
  - h) **Trophy** - Class trophies will be awarded. Rally Excellent A Class **will** qualify for High Score Overall and Rally Grand Champion and Rally Reserve Grand Champion.
13. **Rally Excellent B Class** –
- a) **Eligibility** - To be eligible for Rally Excellent B Class, the exhibitor must have earned a qualifying score in Rally Advanced A.
  - b) **Leash** – Rally Excellent B is judged OFF LEASH with the canine ENTERING AND LEAVING the rally ring ON LEASH.
  - c) **Stations** - Rally Excellent B will have between fifteen and twenty stations with the “SIT-STAY” being included. “START,” “FINISH” and “CALL TO HEEL” will not be included.
  - d) **Stationary Exercises** - There will be a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary exercises with two advanced level stations and three excellent level stations.
  - e) **Jumps** – Two required jumps.
  - f) **Exhibitor's Communication to his/her Canine** – The handler IS NOT permitted to pat his/her leg or clap his/her hands to encourage the canine. Verbal encouragement, multiple commands and/or inaudible signals using one or both arms are allowed. The handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position. The exhibitor may not touch his/her canine or make any physical contact.
  - g) **Class Advancement** - Upon earning a qualifying score of 80 to 100 points, the exhibitor and canine will remain in Rally Excellent B Class until he/she no longer wishes to compete in the Berrien County Youth Fair Rally.
  - h) **Trophy** - Class trophies will be awarded. Rally Excellent B Class **will** qualify for High Score Overall and Rally Grand Champion and Rally Reserve Grand Champion.



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**14. Rally Master Class**

- a) **Eligibility** - To be eligible for Rally Master Class, the exhibitor must have earned a qualifying score in Rally Advanced B.
- b) **Leash** – Rally Master Class is judged OFF LEASH with the canine ENTERING AND LEAVING the rally ring ON LEASH.
- c) **Stations** - Rally Master Class will have between fifteen and twenty-five stations with the “SIT-STAY” being included. “START,” “FINISH” and “CALL TO HEEL” will not be included.
- d) **Stationary Exercises** - There will be a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary exercises with two advanced level stations and three excellent level stations.
- e) **Jumps** – Three to four required jumps.
- f) **Exhibitor’s Communication to his/her Canine** – The handler IS NOT permitted to pat his/her leg or clap his/her hands to encourage the canine. Verbal encouragement, multiple commands and/or inaudible signals using one or both arms are allowed. The handler’s arms need not be maintained in any particular position. The exhibitor may not touch his/her canine or make any physical contact.
- g) **Class Advancement** - Upon earning a qualifying score of 80 to 100 points, the exhibitor and canine may remain in Rally Master Class until he/she no longer wishes to compete in the Berrien County Youth Fair Rally.
- h) **Trophy** - Class trophies will be awarded. Rally Master Class will qualify for High Score Overall and Rally Grand Champion and Rally Reserve Grand Champion.

**CHAPTER NINE                      SCORING**

1. **Scoring for Rally Beginners, Intermediate, Novice, Advanced, Excellent and Master Classes** - Scoring for Rally Novice, Advanced and Excellent Classes will be based upon a maximum score of one-hundred points. The maximum number of points that can be deducted for any station is ten, with the exceptions of non-qualifying performance and the canine fouling the Rally Ring (*minus fifteen points for canine fouling the rally ring*).
2. **Qualifying Score for Advancement to the Next Class Level** – The exhibitor’s team must earn a qualifying score of seventy points to one-hundred points to be eligible to advance to the next class level.
3. **Non-Qualifying Score** – Should the exhibitor earn a zero to sixty-nine points, the exhibitor will remain in the class entered level until his/her team has earned a qualifying score of seventy points to one-hundred points.

**CHAPTER TEN                      RALLY JUMPS**

1. **Jumps** – Jumps will be used in Rally Advance A, Advanced B, Excellent A, Excellent B. and **Master**.
2. **Jump Width** – Jump width may be four to five feet wide.
3. **Jump Height** – Jump height will be set according to canine’s height at the withers (*wicketing*).

**HEIGHT AT WITHERS**

- Less than ten inches (0” to 9”)
- Ten inches to fifteen inches (10” to 15”)
- Sixteen inches to twenty inches (16” to 20”)
- Twenty-one inches and over (21” and up)

**HEIGHT TO BE JUMPED**

- Four inches (4”)
- Eight inches (8”)
- Twelve inches (12”)
- Sixteen inches (16”)

4. **High Jump** – The high jump will consist of two uprights and solid boards of varying widths that will combine to make a jump height of a minimum of four inches and a maximum of sixteen inches.
5. **Bar Jump** – The bar jump will consist of two uprights that will support a striped bar that is set for the canine’s required jump height.
6. **Broad Jump** –

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- a) **Distance to be jump** – The broad jump boards will be evenly spaced, covering a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump set for each dog. (*Height of jump multiplied by 2 plus ½ inch (per board) for spacing = Jump Distance.*)
- b) The broad jump will consist of three telescoping hurdles, each approximately eight inches wide. The largest board will measure about four feet ten inches long (if from a five foot set) and about five inches at the highest point.
- c) In the ring, broad jump boards will be arranged in order of size from smallest to largest.
- d) Three boards will be used for a broad jump of thirty-two inches, two boards for a jump of sixteen to twenty-four inches, and one board for a jump of eight inches.
- e) When decreasing the number of hurdles in a jump, the highest or longest board will be removed first.

**CHAPTER ELEVEN                      RALLY SIGNS EXPLANATION AND PROCEDURE**

1. **Rally Sign # 210: Send To Jump Exercise** – Rally Sign #210: Send to Jump will be placed at least ten feet before the jump. The sign for this station and the station after the jump will be set so that the exhibitor maintains a three foot path away from the jump while the canine performs the jump and returns to the exhibitor. Please note that after sending the canine to the jump, the exhibitor may pause as needed, but must not pass the jump until the dog has returned to heel position.
2. **Rally Sign #298: Sit Stay Exercise** –
  - a) **Rally Sign #298:** Sit Stay is not considered a stationary exercise. The judge will designate the area or person in charge of the leash prior to the Excellent Class walk through. All exhibitors must be informed of where to go to, or from whom he or she needs to see to retrieve his or her leash.
  - b) **Procedure** –
    1. Immediately following the “FINISH” sign, the exhibitor and canine will go to the “SIT-STAY” sign.
    2. The exhibitor will “SIT” his or her canine.
    3. The exhibitor will then walk forward at least fifteen feet and retrieve his or her leash from the steward, the judge or designated area next to the ring exit.
    4. The exhibitor will return to his or her canine in heel position by walking around and behind the canine.
    5. The judge will order “EXERCISE FINISHED” at which time the judging for the “SIT-STAY” will be complete.
    6. The exhibitor will then attach the leash and exit the ring.

**CHAPTER TWELVE                      DEDUCTIONS**

1. **Half Point Deductions** - There are no ½ point deductions in Rally.
2. **Minor Deductions (1 to 2 points)** – One to two points will be deducted for the following reasons
  - a) Tight leash
  - b) Dog interfering with exhibitor
  - c) Poor sits
  - d) Slow, delay or resistance to respond
  - e) Touching or ticking a jump, pylon, post or person
  - f) Out of position
3. **Automatic three point deductions (3 points)** – Three points shall be automatically deducted for the following reasons
  - a) Team Instructor and/or Parent walks into the Rally ring to assist the exhibitor in performing the Rally exercises.
  - b) Non-traditional exhibitor seeks assistance from his/her Team Instructor during Rally exercises.
  - c) Traditional Young Beginner exhibitor has his or her parent enter the Rally Ring with him or her.

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- d) Repeat of a station.
4. **Automatic ten point deduction (10 points) will be deducted for an Incorrectly Performed Station (IP) –** Incorrectly performed station or IP occurs when an exhibitor’s team attempts a station and fails to perform the principal parts of the station on the first attempt. The exhibitor may choose to retry the station once, for a correct performance, accepting the mandatory three point deduction for the retry of the station. The station is considered an IP if the exhibitor chooses not to retry or fails to perform the station correctly on the second attempt.
5. **Minor to Substantial Deductions (1 to 10 points) –** One to ten points will be deducted for the following reasons -
- a) Pylon or post knocked over in Figure Eight, Spiral or Serpentine.
  - b) Lack of control
  - c) Lack of teamwork
  - d) Lack of briskness
  - e) **Exhibitor’s Fault – Handler Fault (*Error*)** can be assessed from one to ten points up to non-qualifying. Exhibitor’s fault can be assessed at any station or during movement between stations on a course. Once an Exhibitor has stopped on any halt exercise, the exhibitor cannot move his or her feet to assist a dog without incurring a fault.
  - f) Loud command or intimidating signal
  - g) Excessive barking
  - h) Hitting the jump
  - i) Patting or clapping in Excellent Class per occurrence.
6. **Substantial Deductions (6 to 10 points) -** Six to ten points will be deducted for the following reasons –
- a) Failure to complete “SIT-STAY” exercise (IP). No retries allowed on the “SIT-STAY” exercise.
  - b) Failure of the canine to go over the jump in the proper direction (IP). No retries allowed on jump.
  - c) Luring
  - d) Pleading with canine
  - e) Lack of natural manner.
  - f) Canine tries to leave the ring.
7. **Non-Qualifying Score of Zero Points –** Zero points will be given for
- a) Dog fouls the ring.
  - b) Minimum requirements not met
  - c) Station Not attempted by the Exhibitor’s Team
  - d) Canine or Exhibitor are unmanageable
  - e) Uncontrolled barking
  - f) Consistently tight leash
  - g) Exhibitor’s error(s)
  - h) **Station not attempted by exhibitor –** A station will be considered not attempted by exhibitor if the exhibitor
    - 1. Completely passes the station without noticing the station.
    - 2. Approaches the Rally sign but choose not to do the exercise.
    - 3. Approaches the Rally sign, but does not begin the exercise described on the Rally sign.
  - i) Non-Qualifying errors may not be retried.
  - j) Canine has left the ring.

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**CHAPTER THIRTEEN**

**WICKET AND RALLY PERSONAL NEEDED AND DUTIES**

1. **Wicket Judge** – Duties are
  - a) To assess the exhibitor’s and canine’s grooming.
  - b) To assess the measurement of the canine’s height.
2. **Wicket Steward** – Duties are
  - a) To assist the wicket judge in the wicket ring.
  - b) To call the exhibitor’s into the wicket ring.
3. **Rally Judge** – Duties are to evaluate the exhibitor’s performance in the Rally exercises.
4. **Rally Gate Steward** – Duties are
  - a) Check to ensure ID’s match scoresheet.
  - b) Ensure jump height is correctly set by the Ring steward.
  - c) Ensure that exhibitor is ready to go into, but does not enter the rally ring until the judge so authorizes.
  - d) Ensure leash is returned to the exhibitor after completion of the rally course.
  - e) Be aware of any problems with the canine and exhibitor.
  - f) Assist with any duties the judge may indicate.
5. **Table Stewards** – (Two table stewards will be needed.) Duties are
  - a) Keep the Rally judge’s scoresheets in order and ready for the Wicket and Rally stewards to use.
  - b) Tabulate Rally score sheets.
  - c) Have the Rally judge double check the math and verify with his or her signature or initials.
  - d) Place tabulated score sheets in placement order.
6. **Rally Ring Steward** – Duties are
  - a) Assist judge in setting up the Rally course.
  - b) Remains aware of any problems with the canines on the Rally course.
  - c) Be prepared to follow the judge’s instructions.
  - d) Set the jump height for each canine.
  - e) Set the broad jump distance for each canine.
  - f) Assist with the leash in Rally Advance and Rally Excellent classes.
  - g) Assist with any duties the judge may indicate.
7. **Time Steward** - Duties are
  - a) Stationed in a position or place as specified by the judge prior to the running of each canine on the Rally course.
  - b) Ensure the timing of a run starts when the judge says “FORWARD,” and ends the timing when the exhibitor’s team crosses the “FINISH STATION.”
  - c) Immediately report the run time to the Table Steward for recording.
  - d) If there is a malfunctions in the timing device when a dog is running the course, the Time Steward will report the malfunction to the judge and the table steward **IMMEDIATELY AFTER** the exhibitor crosses the “FINISH STATION.”

**CHAPTER FOURTEEN**

**REVIEW OF THE BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR RALLY  
OBEDIENCE JUDGING PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**

A review of the Berrien County Youth Fair Rally Obedience Judging Procedures and Guidelines shall be done on a yearly basis per the American Kennel Club Rally Obedience updates and the Berrien County Youth Fair’s traditional and non-traditional exhibitor’s necessities, along with, disability updates and census.

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**REFERENCES:**

**American Kennel Club Companion Events:** 805 Arco Corporate Drive Suite 100; Raleigh, North Carolina 27617-3390; Phone: 919-233-9767; [www.ack.org](http://www.ack.org).

**American Kennel Club Rally Regulations:** 805 Arco Corporate Drive Suite 100; Raleigh, North Carolina 27617-3390; Phone: 919-233-9767; <http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf>

**Getting Started in Rally;** <http://www.akc.org/pdfs/rulebooks/RO29999.pdf>

**Rally On: A Training Manual for Rally Obedience** by Marie Sawford © 2006; Published by Dog Sport Media; 131 McElderry Road; Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G4J8

**The Rally Course Book;** A Guide to AKC Rally Courses; Revised by Janice Dearth © 2010, 2004 by Janice Dearth; Alpine Publications.

**A Beginners Guide to AKC Rally by the American Kennel Club Companion Events;** 805 Arco Corporate Drive Suite 100; Raleigh, North Carolina 27617-3390; Phone: 919-233-9767; [www.ack.org](http://www.ack.org).