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Information in this document was copied and pasted from the AKC Web site:  
<http://www.akc.org/events/rally/index.cfm>

## AKC Rally Introduction

*The Obedience Regulations and Rules Applying to Dog Shows, where applicable, shall govern the conduct of rally trials and shall apply to all persons and dogs participating in them, except as these Rally Regulations may otherwise provide.*

AKC Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by the rally judge. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at their own pace through a course of designated stations (10 - 20, depending on the level). Each of these stations has a sign providing instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed. Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience.

The team of dog and handler moves continuously at a brisk, but normal, pace with the dog under control within a 2-foot area at the handler's left side. There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during the numbered exercises and between the exercise signs; however, perfect "heel position" is not required. 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 Regulations." After the judge's "Forward" order, the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered signs correctly.

Unlimited communication from the handler to the dog is to be encouraged and not penalized. Unless otherwise specified in these *Regulations*, handlers **are** permitted to talk, praise, encourage, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement. Multiple commands and/or signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. The handler may not touch the dog or make physical corrections. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands or intimidating signals will be penalized.

Rally provides a link from the Canine Good Citizen® (CGC) program to obedience or agility competition, both for dogs and handlers. In addition, rally promotes fun and enjoyment for dogs at all levels of competition.

All rally titles will follow the dog's name.

See AKC Obedience Regulations  
<http://www.akc.org/rules/obedience.cfm>.

## Chapter 1: General Regulations For Rally Trials

### Section 1. Application to Hold a Rally Trial

Clubs meeting the requirements of the American Kennel Club that wish to hold a rally trial must submit the form provided by AKC with the appropriate application fee. A rally trial is a separate event, with a separate event number, and the rally application with appropriate fee must be submitted at least TWENTY-FOUR (24) WEEKS before the closing date for entries to the event.

In order for a club to receive AKC approval to hold a rally trial, the club must hold an obedience trial with all regular obedience classes offered in conjunction with that rally trial. If the obedience trial is to be limited, the rally trial must also be limited to not exceed the number of hours as the limited obedience trial. ***The rally trial must have the same format as the obedience trial; i.e. All-Breed, Group, or Breed Specialty. One rally trial will be approved for each obedience trial.***

### Section 2. Premium Lists and Catalogs

A premium list and a catalog must be provided for a rally trial. However, they may be separate documents or they may be included with the obedience, all-breed, or specialty trial premium list and catalog.

### **Section 3. Recording Fees**

At every licensed or member club rally trial, a recording fee of \$3.00 shall be required for each entry of each dog. A marked catalog and all recording fees must be sent to AKC so as to reach its office within seven (7) days after the close of the trial.

## **Chapter 2: General Procedures**

### **Section 1. Space Requirements**

The required minimum area for a rally course is 40 x 50 feet, however 40 x 80 feet is recommended. The floor covering or ground surface must be the same as would be suitable for traditional AKC obedience trials.

### **Section 2. Entry Limits**

Entry limits may be based on ring availability, or as specified by the club offering the event. The judging program will schedule no more than 22 dogs per hour. No judge will be allowed to exceed this number, nor will any judge be assigned for more than eight hours in one day. Judges may take breaks for rest or meals at their discretion. Note: After each two hour period of class judging, judges should allow a 10-minute walk-through for the next two hour block of dogs to be judged in the class.

### **Section 3. Armbands**

Exhibitors shall be provided armbands or stickers, which must be worn on the upper left arm, indicating their dog's order in the class.

### **Section 4. Signs and Holders**

**The designated wording and symbols must be used.** Signs must be a minimum of 8-1/2 x 11 inches and a maximum of 11 x 17 inches. Weather conditions should be considered when securing signs and holders.

Colors used are optional. Twenty exercise sign holders are required plus one each for the Start and Finish signs. All sign holders or signs (not including those for Start and Finish) will be clearly and sequentially

numbered on the course, with numbers approximately 3 inches high. Signs with an asterisk (numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, and 34) 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. **Stationary exercises are any signs indicating a "Halt" or no forward motion.**

### **Section 5. Placement of Signs**

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 to aid in that change. Exercises using cones may require entry with the sign on the left. Exact placement of signs is made by the judge while walking the course along the path that will be taken by the handlers.

The course for each class will be posted at the ring prior to the familiarization time (see below). If possible, copies will be given to exhibitors at check-in when armbands are distributed for the class. The course used for that day's event should accompany the judge's book when turned in to the trial secretary or superintendent, who will forward it to AKC.

### **Section 6. Location of Performance in relation to Signs.**

Except for exercises requiring entry with the sign on the left, exercises are performed near the designated signs, either directly in front, or in front and to the left of said signs.

### **Section 7. Familiarization Time**

A 10-minute walk-through for approximately each two hours of judging will be allowed for handlers, without their dogs. After each two-hour period of judging, judges should allow an additional 10-minute walk-through for the next two-hour block of dogs to be judged in the class. When the same course is used for A and B Classes, the judge may split or combine the classes for the walk-through and adjust the time accordingly. 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.

### **Section 8. Judging**

The judges' orders will be, "Are you ready?" followed by, "Forward." No other orders are necessary.

### **Section 9. Qualifying Scores and General Scoring**

Scores will be posted ringside after each dog and handler team has completed the final exercise. Times will be recorded but not posted. Times will be used only to break ties for placements. To qualify, dog and handler must receive a minimum score of 70 points out of a possible perfect score of 100. A rally title may be added after the dog's name when three qualifying scores have been earned under at least two different judges. Scoring for all levels is based on a maximum score of 100 points. The following deductions shall apply:

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

- ◆ tight leash
- ◆ dog interfering with handler's forward motion
- ◆ poor sits
- ◆ slow, delay, or resistance to respond
- ◆ touching or ticking a jump, pylon, post or person
- ◆ out of position

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

- ◆ repeat of a station (a maximum of 2 re-tries allowed)
- ◆ pylon/post knocked over (on Figure Eight, Spiral, and Serpentine)
- ◆ lack of control
- ◆ loud command or intimidating signal
- ◆ excessive barking

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

- ◆ incorrectly performed station
- ◆ hitting the jump

### **1- to 10-point deduction:**

- ◆ lack of teamwork
- ◆ lack of briskness
- ◆ handler error

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

- ◆ minimum requirements not met
- ◆ dog unmanageable, or uncontrolled barking
- ◆ station not attempted
- ◆ consistently tight lead
- ◆ substantially out of position/not completing the honor exercise
- ◆ elimination in the ring during judging
- ◆ bar knocked off the uprights
- ◆ using a jump as an aid in going over
- ◆ failure of dog to go over the jump in the proper direction
- ◆ handler error

The table steward is responsible for totaling deductions on the judge's worksheet and transferring them to the official judge's book. Final scores may be recorded in the official judge's book by the table steward; however, the judge must verify the scores and sign the book prior to awarding ribbons.

### **Section 10. Timing**

All dogs will be timed. Times will be used only in the event of ties for a placement, as mentioned in Section 9. Timing will begin when the Judge gives the order, "Forward" and will end when dog and handler cross the finish line. In the case of tie scores, the dog and handler completing the course in the least amount of time will receive the higher placement and a plus (+) after the score. The original scores will not be changed. In the event that both the score and time are the same, the dog and handler teams will repeat the course and be judged and timed again.

### **Section 11. Ribbons and Prizes**

Awards for the four placements in each class will be based solely on the number of

points earned, with the exception of ties. All ribbons and rosettes will be at least 2 inches wide and a minimum of 8 inches long. Ribbons/rosettes also will bear the following: the seal of AKC, the words "RALLY TRIAL", the placement (or "Qualifying Score"), and the name of the trial-giving club. The colors for ribbons should be in accordance with Chapter 1, Section 19 of the Obedience Regulations.

## **Chapter 3: Classes and Titles**

### **Section 1. Rally Novice Class**

All exercises are judged on leash, and all dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. The leash must be made of fabric or leather and needs to be long enough to provide adequate slack.

**Rally Novice A and B must have between 10 - 15 stations (Start and Finish not included) with no more than five (5) stationary exercises per class.**

The Rally **Novice A** Class. Dogs competing in this class may not have won an AKC Rally Novice (RN) title or any AKC Novice, Open, or Utility title. A handler must own the dog entered or be a member of the owner's household or immediate family. The handler may not have previously handled any dog that has earned an AKC Rally title or any AKC Novice, Open, or Utility title. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. After a dog earns the Rally Novice (RN) title, it may continue to compete in this class for 60 days. No dog may be entered in both Rally Novice A and Rally Novice B at any one trial.

The Rally **Novice B** Class. Any dog may compete in this class until a qualifying score in the Rally Advanced Class is earned. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. No dog may be entered in both Rally Novice A and Rally Novice B at any one trial.

### **Section 2. Rally Advanced Class**

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

**Rally Advanced A and B must have between 12 - 17 stations (Start and Finish not included) with no more than seven (7) stationary exercises per class.**

The Rally **Advanced A** Class shall be for dogs that have won the Rally Novice (RN) title but have not won the Rally Advanced (RA) title or any AKC Novice, Open, or Utility title. A handler must own the dog entered or be a member of the owner's household or immediate family. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. After a dog earns the Rally Advanced (RA) title, it may continue to compete in this class for 60 days. No dog may be entered in both Rally Advanced A and Rally Advanced B at any one trial.

The Rally **Advanced B** Class will be for dogs that have won the Rally Novice (RN) title. A dog completing the Rally Advanced (RA) title may continue to compete in this class indefinitely. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. No dog may be entered in both Rally Advanced A and Rally Advanced B at any one trial.

### **Section 2A. Jumps**

One jump *must* be used for this class. It may be any jump used as standard equipment in AKC obedience classes (broad jump, high jump, or bar jump), except that 4-foot wide jumps may be used in place of 5-foot wide jumps. Various colors and decorations are allowed; however, there must be nothing hanging from the jump.

It is the judge's responsibility to see that the jumps are set for each dog in accordance with these Regulations.

The **Broad Jump** will consist of three telescoping hurdles, each approximately 8 inches wide. The largest hurdle will measure about 4 feet 10 inches long (if

from a 5-foot set) and about 5 inches at the highest point.

In the ring, broad jump hurdles will be arranged in order of size from smallest to largest. They will be evenly spaced, covering a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump set for each dog. Three hurdles will be used for a jump of 32 inches and two hurdles for a jump of 16 or 24 inches. When decreasing the number of hurdles in the jump, the highest hurdle will be removed first.

The **High Jump** consists of two uprights and solid boards of varying widths that combine to make each dog's required jump height.

The **Bar Jump** also has two uprights. These are constructed to support only a striped bar which is set at the dog's required jump height.

### **Section 2B. Jump Heights**

The dog's jump height shall be given on the entry form. Entries may be arranged according to the jump height of the dogs, from either high to low or low to high.

<b>Height of Dog at Withers</b>	<b>Height to be Jumped</b>
Under 15"	8"
15" and under 20"	12"
20" and over	16"

### **Section 3. Rally Excellent Class**

All exercises are judged off leash except the Honor Exercise. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash.

**Rally Excellent must have between 15 - 20 stations (Start and Finish not included) with no more than seven stationary exercises per class.**

Unlike in the Rally Novice and Advanced Classes, in Rally Excellent handlers are not allowed to pat their legs or clap their hands to encourage the dog. Verbal encouragement, multiple commands,

and/or inaudible signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. Handlers may not touch their dog or make any physical corrections.

The Rally **Excellent A** Class shall be for dogs that have won the Rally Advanced (RA) title, but have not won the Rally Excellent (RE) title or any AKC Novice, Open, or Utility title. A handler must own the dog entered or be a member of the owner's household or immediate family. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. After earning the Rally Excellent (RE) title, a dog may continue to compete in this class for 60 days. No dog may be entered in both Rally Excellent A and Rally Excellent B at any one trial.

The Rally **Excellent B** Class will be for dogs that have won the Rally Advanced (RA) title. A dog completing the Rally Excellent (RE) title may continue to compete in this class indefinitely. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. No dog may be entered in both Rally Excellent A and Rally Excellent B at any one trial.

Two jumps must be used for this class. Jumps may be any jump or any combination of the jumps that may be used as standard equipment in the AKC obedience classes (broad jump, high jump, or bar jump), except that 4-foot jumps may be used in place of 5-foot jumps. Various colors and decorations are allowed; however, there must be nothing hanging from the jump. Jumps may not be used consecutively on the course.

### **Section 4. The Honor Exercise**

Prior to each class, the judge will designate either the sit or the down for the Honor Exercise, as well as the placement in the ring, and will also designate where the handler will stand during the exercise - either next to or facing the dog. The Honor Exercise must not be in the path of the dog and handler team that follows. Volunteer dogs will be used for both honoring the first

dog in the class and as a course run-through when the last dog performs the Honor Exercise.

After completing the course, each dog and handler may either re-enter through the finish gate, or they may proceed directly to the honor station. The dog must remain in either a sit or a down position to honor the next dog and handler's entire course. This exercise must be performed on leash. For the Honor Exercise, the ring steward will monitor each team, record the score, and immediately report it to the table steward.

### **Section 5. The Rally Advanced Excellent title**

Upon completion of the Rally Excellent title, qualifying scores may be accumulated from the Rally Advanced B Class and the Rally Excellent B Class to earn the Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE) title.

In order to receive the RAE title, a dog must qualify ten (10) times in both the Rally Advanced B Class and the Rally Excellent B Class at the same trial. The RAE title will appear at the end of the dog's name and a numeric designation will indicate the number of times the dog has met RAE requirements, i.e. RAE2, RAE3, etc.

## **Rally Judges Guidelines**

**The Obedience Regulations and Rules Applying to Dog Shows, where applicable, shall govern the conduct of rally trials and shall apply to all persons and dogs participating in them, except as these Rally Judges Guidelines may otherwise provide.**

These guidelines reflect the policies and practices approved by the AKC Board of Directors. Judges are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the guidelines in this booklet. Failure to comply with these guidelines subjects a judge to possible disciplinary action.

## **Purpose**

Rally, like other AKC Companion Event activities, is a sport in which all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship both inside and outside the ring. Rally trials demonstrate the usefulness of the purebred dog as a companion of mankind, not merely the dog's ability to follow specified routines in the ring.

All participants in the rally classes are required to perform the same exercises in substantially the same way so that the quality of the various performances may be compared and scored. The basic objective of rally is to provide an activity that does not require extensive precision for success. Dogs who participate in rally are dogs that have been trained and conditioned to behave in the home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs. Dogs in rally events should demonstrate willingness and enjoyment. To that end, handlers may use encouragement, praise, and body language throughout the rally course.

## **Chapter 1 - The Rally Judge**

### **Section 1 - Judging Assignments.**

**ASSIGNMENT RESTRICTIONS** - In the inaugural year of rally events, there will be no restrictions on judging assignments. Beginning with the second year of rally events, judges will not be approved to judge the same rally class at rally trials within 30 days and 200 straight-line miles of each other, except as allowed in multiple trial weekends.

### **Section 2 - Know the Rally Regulations.**

Rally Regulations are the basic guide to judging. However, not every possible fault or error is covered, only the more common and serious ones.

Rally Regulations clearly define the exercises, their order and the standard by which they are to be judged. The Rally Regulations set the standard for a perfect score of 100 points by which each dog's performance is judged.

Rally Regulations give the judge guidelines for how an exercise is to be performed. While rally is not judged with the same

precision as formal obedience, rally judges must make decisions based on a mental picture of the perfect performance within the framework of the Rally Regulations.

Studying Rally Regulations, exhibiting, and attending AKC Companion Events seminars all increase a judge's knowledge. Putting the acquired knowledge into practice permits a judge to apply the principles of sound judging contained in the Rally Regulations.

Judges are given full discretionary authority within the framework of the Rally Regulations, and they must exercise this authority impartially. Judges are required to make their own decisions and accept the responsibility this implies. If a decision depends on the exact wording of the Rally Regulations, the judge is expected to consult the book before making the decision. A judge may not discard, modify, or require anything not specified in the Rally Regulations.

A rally title is intended to evoke admiration. Therefore, the title must be based on performances that fully meet the requirements of the Rally Regulations. Scores for each exercise must be amply justified by the performance of dog and handler. The owner of any dog receiving a qualifying score in rally has every reason to be proud. Earning a qualifying score should indicate a credible performance that fully justifies the eventual awarding of a title.

## **Chapter 2 - Preparation for Judging**

**Section 1 - The Judge's Checklist.** Ring - Upon arrival, the judge should post the course(s) outside the ring. The judge may alter the course because of unforeseen ring conditions and post the changes(s). Prior to the scheduled judging time, the judge should inspect the ring, which must meet all requirements of the Rally Regulations, Chapter 2, Section 1. Size shall be determined by means of the judge pacing the ring.

Checking the ring also requires the judge to:

- ◆ examine signs and sign holders to ensure they are secure.
- ◆ examine the distractions used in the Offset Figure 8 to determine that they can be seen and smelled but not consumed.
- ◆ measure the jumps in the Advanced and Excellent Classes to ensure they meet the requirements as described in Rally Regulations, Chapter 3, Section 2A.

Catalog Order - The Rally Regulations require that dogs be judged in catalog order to the extent practical, without holding up the judging in any ring. For the Advanced and Excellent classes, the trial secretary or superintendent may arrange entries according to the dogs' jump heights, ranging from either low to high or high to low. A judge need not mark absentees in the judge's book until the end of the class. Judges are not required to wait for dogs.

Judging Schedule - The judging schedule will be based on no more than 22 dogs per hour. Walk-throughs should be performed as outlined in the *Rally Regulations*, Chapter 2, Sections #2–Entry Limits and #7–Familiarization Time. Additionally, judges may take rest or meal breaks at their discretion.

## **Chapter 3 - Ring Procedures**

**Section 1 - Judging the Dogs.** Scores, but not times, shall be posted ringside after each dog and handler team has completed the final exercise.

The judge should honor an exhibitor's request to be excused.

## **Chapter 4 - The Judge's Book**

**Section 1 - When Judging is Finished.** The judge must sign the book and mark the time finished. The book, along with a copy of each course for the completed class, is then returned to the trial secretary, obedience chair, or superintendent who will scan the book for obvious omissions or oversights, which then can be corrected immediately.

Judges should retain their records for at least 6 months, in case such records are required by the AKC in order to review the results of a particular class.

## **Rally Steward Guidelines**

### **Introduction To Rally Stewarding**

Rally classes are planned in conjunction with obedience trials. Planning an obedience trial involves many months of preparation by an obedience trial committee. The tasks are varied and demanding, and include, but are not limited to: selecting judges, preparing a premium list, compiling a mailing list, soliciting trophies, preparing or obtaining equipment, making luncheon arrangements, securing admission tickets, and printing a catalog.

One essential element that is often neglected or treated lightly is the selection and training of stewards. Rally is held in conjunction with obedience; stewards will be needed who have been specifically trained to assist with rally. A steward who is not familiar with rally procedures will require time-consuming instructions from the judge and can severely slow down the entire judging procedure. To ensure the smooth operation of a rally ring, clubs should provide a training session for stewards. Experienced stewards or judges can lead the training session.

A person may both steward for and show under the same judge, with the exception of the table steward who may not show and steward in the same class.

Stewarding functions in the rally ring are broken down into four general categories: gate steward, table steward, ring steward, and time steward. For the Excellent class, an honor steward is also needed.

In Rally Novice and Rally Advanced, the club will provide a minimum of three stewards, as one person can serve as both the ring steward and the time steward. In the Rally Excellent Classes, the ring steward will also monitor and record the score for the honoring dog. The time

steward will monitor and report each dog's time to the table steward.

Each steward's functions are described below. Additionally, it is essential that all stewards be at ringside at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of judging to receive any specific instructions from the judge and to assist in setting up the rally ring as directed by the judge.

### **Chapter 1 - The Gate Steward**

The primary responsibility of the gate steward is to ensure that the next dog to be judged is immediately available when the judge indicates that he/she is ready. As soon as the judge begins judging the dog in the ring, this steward calls the next dog and ensures the handler is ringside before the dog in the ring has completed the rally exercises.

Dogs may not enter the ring until the judge so indicates. It is the responsibility of the gate steward to ensure that the class judging is not delayed because the judge is waiting for dogs.

Dogs must be judged in catalog order to the extent that it is practical to do so without holding up judging in any ring. If the dog listed next in the catalog is not at ringside, the steward should not hesitate to call the next dog in order. Stewards are not required to seek out handlers. It is the handlers' responsibility to be present and ready when their numbers are called. The steward should report any absence to the judge. The judge will decide whether the dog is to be marked absent. This procedure should be followed, even if the armband for the absent dog has already been picked up.

It is also normally the duty of the gate steward to distribute armbands. The steward should ask the exhibitor's name and the name of the dog, then check the catalog. The steward should check that the armband number given to the exhibitor corresponds to the number in the catalog. It is essential that every precaution be taken when giving out armbands.

Exhibitors may make requests for special consideration, such as asking to be judged out of catalog order. Any request of this nature must be directed to the judge. It is only the judge's prerogative to grant or deny such a request. Stewards should never try to consider the matter themselves.

In Rally Advanced and Excellent Classes, it is the gate steward's responsibility to return the leash as dog and handler complete the "Finish" sign but before they leave the ring.

The gate steward is also charged with checking the jump settings for each dog in the Rally Advanced and Excellent Classes.

## **Chapter 2 - The Table Steward**

The extent to which a judge uses the services of a table steward varies greatly. Some judges prefer to do their own bookwork and do not feel it is necessary to have the steward perform many of these duties. The steward must receive specific instructions from the judge as to what will be required.

Judges must use worksheets to communicate with the table steward. The judge may ask the table steward to prepare and have the worksheet ready for the next dog. The steward should ensure that the class, proper armband number, and breed of dog are entered correctly on the sheet, as well as the jump height of the dog, if applicable. The table steward must double-check to see that the scores on the worksheet have been added correctly. The table steward then initials the worksheet and transfers the score and time to the judge's book. If an error is detected, the steward should bring it to the attention of the judge, then enter the corrected score and time in the judge's book.

The table steward will post the scores at ringside as each dog and handler team finishes the course.

If trophies are offered, the table steward ensures that all trophies and ribbons are

available at the conclusion of judging. The judge may ask the steward to assist in awarding the trophies and ribbons to the winners.

## **Chapter 3 - The Ring Steward**

Each judge in rally will have at least one ring steward. The ring steward will post the scores at ringside as each dog and handler team finishes the course. It is particularly important for the ring steward to report to the ring at least 30 minutes prior to judging to assist in setting up the rally course and to receive specific instructions from the judge.

## **Chapter 4 - The Honor Steward**

The honor steward will monitor and record the score of the honoring dog in Rally Excellent. The judge will determine where each dog and handler will be stationed according to *Rally Regulations*, Chapter 3, Section 4 and as described in exercise number 50.

## **Chapter 5 - The Time Steward**

As previously stated, in the Rally Novice and Advanced Classes, the ring steward and the time steward may be the same person, but in the Rally Excellent class, two separate stewards are needed for these functions.

If two or more dogs in a class earn the same score, the tie is broken by time. The timer is positioned outside the ring in a place specified by the judge. The timer should be lined up with the Start sign. When the judge gives the order "Forward," the timer starts the stopwatch and stops it when the dog and handler cross the Finish station. Times are reported immediately to the table steward after each dog completes the course.

It is helpful to have two stopwatches, which may be traded with the table steward so

that judging is not held up until the time is cleared.

## **Chapter 6 - The Classes**

### **Novice**

In the Novice class, exercises are performed on leash and there are no jumps. The judge will give the order for the handler to begin the course. The steward should remain outside the ring but stay alert to any possible problems and be ready to follow whatever instructions the judge may give.

### **Advanced and Excellent**

When issuing an armband in the Advanced and Excellent Rally Classes, the gate steward should check the catalog to record or verify the height and distance the dog jumps. This information is given by the handler of each dog. The gate steward should also take the leash from the handler when the dog is brought into the ring and return it as the dog and handler complete the "Finish" sign but before they leave the ring.

It is essential that the ring steward have a tape measure or steel rule to ensure accuracy in setting the broad jump. The first duty of the judge is to check that the jumps are properly set. Stewards must arrange jumps quickly and accurately, or much time will be wasted.

### **The Jumps**

Although the gate steward will ask the handler what height the dog jumps, the handler may only know the height of the dog. Therefore, it is essential that ring stewards be familiar with the *Rally Regulations* in order to set the jumps correctly.

### ***High Jump and/or Bar Jump***

The jump height requirements are as follows:

<b>Height of Dog at Withers</b>	<b>Height to be Jumped</b>
Under 15"	8"
15" and under 20"	12"
20" and over	16"

**Broad Jump** - A detailed description of the broad jump is provided in the Rally Regulations. The broad jump will cover a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump set for each dog.