

MASCA Rally-Obedience Program Overview

Classes:

Introductory (RO-I) Novice (RO-N) Open (RO-O) Advanced (RO-A)

MASCA Rally Rules and Regulations

Purpose: The purpose of rally trials is to provide a more informal form of obedience attracting dog performers and to showcase the working partnership between handler and dog. Rally is a sport and, as such, should be governed by the principles of good sportsmanship in and out of the ring. Rally is an uninterrupted performance by a handler and his/her dog without a judge's directions.

Ring Size: The optimum size of the ring should be 50' x 80', minimum 40' x 50'. No grooming or crating within 10' of the Rally ring while Rally is taking place.

Holding a trial: A trial may be a stand alone event or may be held with a conformation, obedience, herding or other MASCA event. Clubs or groups wishing to hold a trial must submit a request to the MASCA board 30 days in advance of the trial.

Rally level: Hosting club may host any or all levels. Handlers may enter a dog in any level, as lower level titles are not required. Dogs may stay in the same level after title is earned. Clubs may hold MASCA only trials or may elect to open their trials to all breed or mixed breed dogs.

Eligible dogs: All dogs at least 6 months old at the date of the trial are eligible to compete in classes that have no jump. Dogs must be one year old to compete in any class with a jump.

Any dog registered with MASCA may compete. Clubs may also allow a For Exhibition Only class for dogs without a MASCA Registration or Tracking number. Clubs may elect to open trials to dogs not registered with MASCA. Any dog not registered with MASCA may compete in a MASCA rally trial and receive points and titles through MASCA, if the handler

completes the form to request a tracking number and submits it with a \$5 fee to MASCA. (see form) **Female dogs in season will not be permitted to compete.**

Entry form: (see forms)

Commands, Signals, Praise, and Treats: Unlimited communication from the handler to the dog is to be encouraged and not penalized. Unless otherwise specified in these Rally Regulations, handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement. Whistling or the use of a whistle is not permitted while in the Rally ring. Simultaneous commands and/or signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed. Loud commands by handlers to their dogs create a poor impression of Rally and should be avoided. Shouting is not necessary even in a noisy place if the dog is properly trained to respond to a normal tone of voice. Treats are not to be given during the performance of any exercise but may be given once the exercise is completed in the Intro and Novice levels. Any dropped treats are to be picked up by the handler before he or she leaves the ring. Clickers and toys will not be permitted in the ring.

Judges qualifications:

Persons applying to judge or asked to judge at MASCA rally events should meet the following criteria:

- Intro and Novice: 3 Novice level titles in Obedience or Rally
- Open Level: 3 Novice level titles and 2 Open level titles in Obedience or Rally
- Advanced Level and above: 3 Novice Level, 2 Open level, and 1 advanced level title in Obedience or Rally
- Qualifying titles may be earned from MASCA, AKC, ASCA, ADPT, UKC or other venues approved by the MASCA board. Judge applicants may earn titles from different registries on the same dog, however, the 3 novice and 2 open level titles must have been earned on 2 or more different dogs. Judges that do not meet the above requirements must receive special approval by the MASCA Board. Provisional judges are encouraged to apply.

Judges may show their own dogs at MASCA rally trials at which they are judging. However, they must show in a special judges class and be judged by another MASCA approved rally judge on that day. They may receive a qualifying ribbon or certificate; however, they will not be eligible for rally placement ribbons or prizes.

Judges will review the MASCA Rally Judge's Handbook, including Rules and Regulations, Exercise Descriptions, and Scoring Guidelines prior to judging trials and matches.

Qualifying Scores: A perfect score shall consist of 200 points. A qualifying score means that the dog and handler have earned a total score of at least 170.

Placements: Certificates, prizes or ribbons may be given for each dog and handler team who receives a qualifying score. Placement certificates, prizes, ribbons, or awards will be given for dogs and handlers for first, second, third, and fourth places. The hosting club will have the option of offering High in Trial. Dogs and handlers who do not receive a qualifying score will not receive placement certificates, prizes, ribbons, or awards. New title ribbons may be given at the club's discretion.

In the event that two or more dogs in the same class or competing for High in Trial receive the same score, fastest time will win.

Titles: A dog who earns three qualifying scores of 170 or better under two different judges in the Introductory class shall earn the title RO-I. A dog who earns three qualifying scores of 170 or better under two different judges in the Novice class shall earn the title RO-N. Dogs who earn three qualifying scores of 170 or better under two different judges in the Open class shall earn the title RO-O. A dog who earns three qualifying scores of 170 or better under two different judges in the Advanced class shall earn the title RO-A.

Equipment: Dogs will be shown on a plain buckle, snap or well-fitted martingale collar. Harnesses or front control harnesses may be used in the Introductory Level only. Training collars such as prong or shock collars will NOT be allowed. Gentle leaders and No-jump harnesses will not be allowed. Tags should be removed from the collar or harness before competition. The leash shall be of leather or fabric and four to six feet in length.

Walk Through:

A 10-minute walkthrough will be allowed for handlers without their dogs with the judge who is available to answer questions handlers may have. Walkthrough times shall be the 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time for the class.

Rally trial committee A rally trial committee shall include, but is not limited to, a Rally Trial Chairperson and a Rally Trial Secretary. The Rally Trial Chairperson may also serve as the Rally Trial Secretary.

The Trial Chairperson is responsible for:

- Obtaining the trial location
- Securing sanctioning from MASCA
- Arranging for a judge
- Ordering ribbons, prizes, certificates, or awards
- Making sure all equipment is at the trial site ready to go
- Arranging for table and ring stewards and other trial personnel
- Printing the premium and/or arranging for it to be posted on line
- Ensuring that all paperwork is correct and submitted to MASCA

The Trial Secretary is responsible for:

- Accepting entries and fees
- Preparing numbered armbands or stickers for competitors
- Assigning numbers to competitors and writing them on score sheets
- Acting as the contact person for exhibitors
- Tracking requests for refund
- Printing score sheets for judges

The day of the show, the Trial Secretary will be responsible for:

- Checking in exhibitors and providing armbands or stickers
- Checking that the handler is entered in the right class
- Filling in score sheet information for day of show entries
- Adding day of show entries to the judge's sheet
- Giving the completed score sheets to the table steward
- Ensuring that all paperwork is complete and signed by the judge
- Making sure the judge gets paid

Other personnel

- Awards chairman (may be handled by the table steward)
- Judge
- Table steward
- Two ring stewards-timer steward and desk steward
- Any other personnel deemed by the chairperson to help the event run smoothly

Equipment provided by the trial giving club

General: Ring gates to enclose one or more 40' by 50' rings

- Table and chairs for the trial secretary
- Table and chairs for the judge and table steward
- Large easel and board for posting running order and scores
- Ribbon, certificates, prizes, or awards
- Numbered stickers or armbands and rubber bands
- Clipboard for each judge, score sheets and judge's sheets
- MASCA Rally Rules
- Pens and a bold line marker
- Tape measure or yardstick
- Calculator
- Signs and sign holders

Introductory & Novice: several 6" to 24" traffic cones

Novice: 2 Stopwatches

Open: bar jump and broad jump

Advanced: rally bar jump and high jump **or** agility bar jump and panel jump

Jump heights: No jump height cards will be required for MASCA Rally. A handler who is entered in a class requiring jumps will be asked by the ring steward what height (and in the broad jump what distance) he wishes the jump to be placed. Surfaces may differ at various facilities. In this way, a handler may advocate for his dog by choosing a lower jump height when conditions are less than ideal or the dog is young, elderly, has sustained a previous injury, is a giant or short legged breed, etc. Jumps will not be set higher than 16" for any dog.

Standard jumping height is considered to be the nearest even numbered increment to the height of the dog at the withers.

Those handlers interested in jumping standard heights for their dogs are encouraged to consider this table:

<u>Height of dog at the withers</u>	<u>High jump</u>
Less than 12 in.	4"
12 to less than 16 in.	8"
16 to less than 20 in.	12"
20 up .	16"

START

The Judge will indicate to the team that they may begin. Timing will begin when the judge says, "Forward". The dog does not have to be sitting in heel position to begin the course. Teams should cross the start line at their normal heeling pace.

FINISH

Timing concludes as the team crosses the Finish Line. The bonus exercise is not timed. If the team has chosen to perform the Bonus Exercise, judging will conclude after the team completes the exercise.

BONUS EXERCISE

The Bonus Exercise is optional and performed after the team crosses the finish line and course time is stopped. The Bonus is scored the same as other exercises. The bonus sign will be selected by the judge from any sign in the level above what exhibitor is exhibiting in at the time (Intro will have a novice sign; novice an open sign, open an advanced sign). Teams may earn up to 10 additional points for bonus performances.

SCORING GUIDELINES

Each team enters the ring with a perfect score of 200 points. Deductions are taken based on the exercise requirements and the scoring guidelines. Deductions are taken in one-point increments from a minimum of one point up to a ten point deduction. The judge indicates point deductions on the score sheet as faults occur on the course.

1 point

- Tight leash, each occurrence
- Touching a jump or person
- Performing an exercise with the sign on the wrong side
- Slow delay or resisting to respond to handler

1-10 points depending on the severity of the error and level

- Heeling errors – lag, forge, bump, or too wide
 - Dog changes position without being asked
 - Failure to complete honor exercise in advanced level
 - Incorrectly performed exercise or failure to perform all elements of an exercise as described
 - Dog touches handler or handler touches dog
- Additional cues after first one is given

3 points

- Repeating a station is a 3 point deduction, only 1 retry is allowed per station
- Loud commands/cues or intimidating signals
- Dropping reward/treat
- Failure of the dog to move with handler as specified in exercise description
- Hitting a jump
- Sniffing a food bowl (3 points per occurrence)
- Treat given other than between exercises
- Knocking over a cone or exercise sign

NQ (retries are not allowed in the event any of the following should occur)

- Dog does not hold position during walk-around exercises
- Touching the dog to prompt an exercise (unless specifically allowed in exercise description)
- Dog refuses jump (passing the jump uprights will result in the NQ)
- Nipping, biting, attempting to turn over food bowls in Offset Fig. 8
- Dog leaves the ring, eliminates in the ring or becomes ill in the ring.
- Dog is unmanageable or aggressive to people or other dogs
- Consistently tight leash
- Knocking Over the bar
- Handler performs exercises out of sequence (off course) or misses an exercise

RALLY CLASSES OFFERED:

INTRODUCTORY RALLY EXERCISE DESCRIPTION:

The introductory course consists of 10 exercise signs, exclusive of the Start and Finish signs and the Bonus Exercise sign(s). One bonus exercise sign will be used after the finish sign. There will be a minimum of 1 stationary exercises per class.

Intro exercise signs have an (I) in the upper right corner. Bonus Exercise can be any novice exercise sign. The introductory course is performed on-leash. The leash should be held so that there is no tension on the dog's collar when in heel position. It may be held in one or both hands. Hand position may change during the course. Hand and body position should be relaxed and natural. While heeling, the handler may not appear to be luring the dog. Dog may heel on either side of the handler depending on signs and course pattern.

Refer to the General Scoring Guidelines for scoring that applies to all exercises.

NOVICE RALLY EXERCISE DESCRIPTION:

The novice course consists of 15-17 exercise signs, exclusive of the Start and Finish signs and the Bonus Exercise sign(s). There will be a minimum of 4, maximum of 6 stationary exercises. Course will have a minimum of 4 novice signs.

Novice exercise signs have an (N) in the upper right corner. Bonus Exercise can be any open exercise sign. The novice course is performed on-leash. The leash should be held so that there is no tension on the dog's collar when in heel position. It may be held in one or both hands. Hand position may change during the course. Hand and body position should be relaxed and natural. While heeling, the handler may not appear to be luring the dog. Dog may heel on either side of the handler depending on signs and course pattern.

Refer to the General Scoring Guidelines for scoring that applies to all exercises.

OPEN RALLY EXERCISE DESCRIPTION:

The open course consists of 20-22 exercise signs, exclusive of the Start and Finish signs and the Bonus Exercise sign(s). There will be a minimum of 5, maximum of 6 stationary exercises plus 1 required jump per class. Course will also have a minimum of 4 open level exercises and 1 required jump.

Open exercise signs have an (O) in the upper right corner. Bonus Exercise can be any advanced exercise sign. The open course is performed off-leash. Hand and body position should be relaxed and natural. While heeling, the handler may not appear to be luring the dog. Dog may heel on either side of the handler depending on signs and course pattern.

Refer to the General Scoring Guidelines for scoring that applies to all exercises.

ADVANCED RALLY EXERCISE DESCRIPTION:

The advanced course consists of 20-22 exercise signs, exclusive of the Start and Finish signs and the Bonus Exercise sign(s). There will be a minimum of 5, maximum of 6 stationary exercises plus 1 required jump per class. Course will also have a minimum of 3 advanced level exercises and 1 required jump.

Advanced exercise signs have an (A) in the upper right corner. Bonus Exercises for Advanced have Bonus (A) in the corner.

The open course is performed off-leash. Hand and body position should be relaxed and natural. While heeling, the handler may not appear to be luring the dog. Dog may heel on either side of the handler depending on signs and course pattern.

Refer to the General Scoring Guidelines for scoring that applies to all exercises.