

Introduction to Rally Obedience

The Stewarding functions in the Rally ring are broken down into five general categories: Gate Steward, Table Steward, Ring Steward, Time Steward & Honor Steward (Excellent Class only).

- It is essential that all stewards be ringside at least 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the judging to receive specific instructions for the Judge and to assist in setting up the ring.
- Stewards may act **ONLY** on the Judge's instructions & **MUST NOT** give out information to the owners & handlers unless specifically told to do so by the Judge.

GATE STEWARD

The Gate Steward's primary jobs are to assist the Judge and Handlers / Owners in the following ways:

- Distribute armbands in correct catalog order, ensuring the number given corresponds to the dog's name and number in the catalog.
- Ensure dogs are available for judging in catalog order, with the next competitor waiting as one is performing, reporting any absence to the Judge & Table Steward and calling the next dog to perform.
 - **NOTE:** Exhibitors requesting a change in order to compete should be directed to the Judge.
- Verify the correct height of jumps, while remaining aware of & reporting any problems with the dogs on the course to the Judge.

TABLE STEWARD

This Steward receives specific instructions from the judge and **MUST** ensure that:

- Information about the dog & scores are accurately recorded on the worksheets & in the Judge's book, informing the Judge of any necessary correction.
- Unofficial scores have been posted ringside
- All trophies & ribbons are available at the conclusion of each Class.

RING STEWARD

The Ring Steward should be available to:

- Set up the course, ensuring proper jump height for each dog.
- Be aware of & report any problems with the dog on the course to the Judge, following any instructions that might be given.

- Perform any other duties assigned by the Judge, to include leash handling for the Exhibitor and assisting the Table Steward with posting the unofficial scores.

HONOR STEWARD

The Honor Steward closely monitors the honoring dog in the Rally Excellent Class & **MUST**:

- Be positioned, without interference to the competitor, to observe the Judge, dog, and Handler at ALL times, reporting any problems to the Judge.

TIME STEWARD

In the event of a tie, a Time Steward will be used and is responsible for:

- Beginning the timer when the Judge says “Forward” and stopping the timer when the dog & Handler cross / pass the finish station.
- Reporting the time to the Table Steward
- Notifying the Judge of a timer malfunction AFTER the course has been completed.

DEFINITIONS

Novice Class – Both Pre-Novice and Novice events are performed on leash without jumps.

Advanced & Excellent Class – Events are performed off leash and include both High and Broad jumps.

Jumps – **High Jumps** are set according to the dog’s height at the withers and are set as follows:

<u>Height of Dog</u>	<u>Jump Height</u>
Less than 10 inches	4 inches
10 to less than 15 inches	8 inches
15 to less than 20 inches	12 inches
20 inches and over	16 inches

- **Broad Jumps** are evenly spaced hurdles arranged in order from smallest to largest covering a distance equal to twice the height of the jump:

<u>High Jump Height</u>	<u>Broad Jump Length</u>	<u>Number of Boards</u>
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		used
4 inches	8 inches	1 board
8 inches	16 inches	2 boards
12 inches	24 inches	2 boards
16 inches	32 inches	3 boards