

Rally

Ohio 4-H/Ohio State Fair Rules for Participation



2025



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



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County-Use of Ohio 4-H/OSF Dog Rules and Regulations

County usage of all Ohio 4-H/Ohio State Fair Dog Show Rules and Regulations is recommended for consistency and continuity in the 4-H dog programs throughout the state. However, counties may adapt The Ohio 4-H/Ohio State Fair Dog Show Rules and Regulations for county level evaluations to allow for a more positive experience for youth.

Some examples include:

- *Adding, deleting or modifying classes offered to accommodate entry numbers or experience, such as dividing Pre-Novice into Pre-Novice A and Pre-Novice B classes*
- *Adding "C" classes when needed.* At the Ohio State Fair, except for certain advanced obedience classes, youth are required to move to a higher level if winning. However, depending on the size of classes at the county level, it may not be feasible for a youth to move to a higher level after winning. They may be the only youth in the class or may not be ready as a team to move to the higher level. Therefore, either permitting youth winning first place to repeat a class or creating a "C" class for certain obedience classes, allows that youth to continue training at the same level to become successful and not get discouraged, dropping out of the dog project.
- *Adapting age divisions for participation.* For example, Showmanship and You and Your Dog are divided into Junior, Intermediate, and Senior classes at the State Fair. Counties may offer Junior and Senior classes, or even just one Showmanship class, depending on numbers.
- *Combining A and B classes.* Counties may combine an A and B class into one class provided the class exercise requirements are the same. However, record-keeping is required to ensure that youth/dog teams who are inexperienced "A" teams, are recognized as such so that they are not excluded from participating at the "A" level at the Ohio State Fair in the same 4-H year, if applicable.

2025 General Dog Show Rules for Ohio 4-H/Ohio State Fair Participation

Note: Changes and/or additions for 2025 are underlined.

Preface

Below are the rules for participating in the 2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show. It is your responsibility to read, understand, and follow these rules. Please refer to the *County-Use of Ohio/OSF Dog Rules and Regulations* at the beginning of this section to find examples of how these rules can be modified for county use.

1. Prior to participating in 4-H dog activities with a dog (which includes the Ohio State Fair Dog Show), a *2025 Permission to Participate in Ohio 4-H Dog Activities Disclosure and Release of Claims* form **MUST** be signed by the 4-H member and a parent or guardian for this year's 4-H dog projects. **This form for the current year must be on file in the county Extension office for each youth before they can participate in the Ohio 4-H Dog Program activities with a dog.**
2. Individuals who violate any rule and/or exhibit poor sportsmanship during the Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show will be disqualified from showing.
3. Any dog exhibiting unsafe or threatening behavior *at any time before, during, or after exhibition* **MUST** be removed from the fairgrounds and will not be permitted to return at any time throughout the Dog Show. Determination of the show committee and/or judge will be final.
4. A dog that snaps, bites, or attempts to bite while in the ring must be immediately excused from the ring and then removed from the Fairgrounds for the remainder of the Dog Show.
5. Individuals are not permitted to have any discussion with judges at any time throughout the Dog Show. (This does not include discussions or questions during Agility or Rally Briefings or Walkthroughs.)
6. Determinations of the Show Committee and/or Judges are FINAL.
7. Judges' judging and scoring decisions are FINAL.
8. Individuals with concerns must express them in writing, give them to Show Personnel, and those concerns will be discussed at the fall Ohio 4-H Dog Advisory Committee meeting. Confrontations with judges and/or show personnel may result in disqualification of exhibitor and removal of individuals from the Fairgrounds.
9. Ohio State Fair Dog Show information can be found at <http://go.osu.edu/osfdogs>.

Project Eligibility

1. Youth must be enrolled in 4-H, and ages 8 and in the third grade, or 9 years old and older regardless of grade level, as of January 1, 2025, with the last year of eligibility, or participation, in 4-H being the year in which the individual turns 19.
2. Youth must be enrolled in the correct dog project to show in classes at the State Fair as follows:
 - *You and Your Dog*, Project No. 201D – to show in You and Your Dog classes;
 - *Obedience*, Project No. 201O – to show in Beginner Novice, Pre-Novice, Novice, Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open, Utility, Brace, Team, and Rally classes;
 - *Showmanship*, Project No. 201S – to show in Showmanship classes;
 - *Performance Dog*, Project No. 201P – to show in Agility, Drill Team, Freestyle, and Scent Work;
 - *Working Dog*, Project No. 201W – to show in the Assistance Dog classes;
 - *4-H PetPALS*, Project No. 230 - to show in the 4-H PetPALS class (Youth do not need to enroll in the Working Dog project to participate in 4-H PetPALS at the State Fair.)
 - 4-H members can be enrolled in any 4-H Dog Project to participate in the Poster Contest; and
 - Any 4-H member, regardless of 4-H project, as well as FFA members, can participate in the Dog Skillathon.

3. FFA members are eligible to show provided they meet school FFA dog project requirements, as well as the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Rules* and entry requirements. This includes ownership requirements.
4. Project eligibility and class or classes entered must be determined at the county level, based on the experience and ability of the handler/dog team. Extension 4-H educators must verify the youth is a member in good standing in their county to be able to participate at the Ohio State Fair.
5. Prior to showing at the Ohio State Fair, the exhibitor is expected to understand and agree to follow the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Rules*, including the exercises to be performed for the judge, and to be able to perform those exercises prior to the Ohio State Fair Dog Show.

Dog Eligibility

1. Only domestic dogs can be shown. Wolf and wolf hybrids are not permitted.
2. All dogs exhibited must be **six months of age** by the date of the show. **This includes Pilot Dog puppies and other assistance dogs. Dogs exhibited in Agility must be 18 months or older on or before the first day of the agility trial.** Proof of age is the burden of the exhibitor or exhibitor's immediate family. Dogs not meeting this age requirement cannot be shown.
3. Dogs shown at the Ohio State Fair Dog Show must be the same project dogs taken by 4-H members at the county level.

Ownership Requirements

1. Dogs participating in the Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show must either be owned by the junior fair exhibitor or the exhibitor's immediate family.
2. Ownership of Assistance Dogs is respective of each applicable organization.
3. Dogs must be in the continual care of the junior fair exhibitor for the duration of the project.
4. *The date of ownership must be no later than April 1, or earlier as the date specified by the exhibitor's county.* Proof of ownership is the burden of the exhibitor and exhibitor's family.
5. Hardship cases will not be considered for State Fair participation.
6. Leasing a dog is not permitted for State Fair Dog Show participation. If counties have a leasing program, leased dogs are not permitted to exhibit at the State Fair.
7. Sharing a dog at the county level is not permitted for State Fair Dog Show participation, except for You and Your Dog. Siblings will be permitted to share a dog in the You and Your Dog class at the Ohio State Fair. Dogs cannot be shared in Obedience, Showmanship, Performance or Working events. If two youth share a dog at the county level in classes other than You and Your Dog, neither youth is eligible to show that dog at the Ohio State Fair, including 4-H Agility and 4-H PetPALS.

Definitions of Ownership

1. *Immediate family* is defined as the junior fair exhibitor's father, mother, legal guardian, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, grandfather, or grandmother, including the corresponding step and half relations, or by a member of the exhibitor's household.
2. *Continual care* is defined as the junior fair exhibitor being responsible for and involved in the feeding, cleaning, and caring of the project.
3. *Hardship cases* are defined as dogs that replace the original project enrolled by the exhibitor after the county's enrollment deadline, or no later than April 1.
4. *Ownership – Registered dogs:* The exhibitor's name, or a member of his/her immediate family's name, must appear on the registration certificate of a dog registered by AKC, UKC, individual breed registries, herding dog registries, etc. Co-ownership of a dog is permitted provided the exhibitor's name, or a member of his/her immediate family's name, is listed on the registration certificate. It is recommended that a copy of the registration certificate be on file in the county Extension office.

5. *Ownership – Non-registered purchased dogs:* A non-registered dog purchased from a private owner, pet shop, humane society, dog rescue, etc., must have the exhibitor’s name or a member of his/her immediate family’s name, on the bill of sale. It is recommended that a copy of this bill of sale be on file in the county Extension office.
6. *Ownership – Dogs found/gifts:* If a dog was given to the exhibitor or immediate family, or found by the exhibitor or immediate family, the exhibitor or a member of his/her immediate family receiving or finding the dog should verify the date received or found by use of veterinary records, dog licenses, and other forms of records, and write a statement as to the definite or approximate date the dog was received as a gift or found. It is recommended that a copy of this statement be on file in the county Extension office.

Training

1. Lessons, instruction, and advice for the exhibitor are encouraged. As long as the exhibitor is present in the learning situation and handles or trains the dog the majority of the time present, such assistance can include occasional handling or training by another person. Only the exhibitor can train the dog at any type of training class *on or after April 1, 2025*.
2. The judge will not permit an exhibitor to train or practice any exercise in the show ring at any time.

Showing

1. **No one other than the junior fair exhibitor** is permitted to show the project dog(s) at any type of dog show, including agility, field trials, rally trials, etc., as well as fun matches, *on or after April 1, 2025*. (Excluding You and Your Dog if siblings share a dog.)
2. **No one other than the junior fair exhibitor** is permitted to take the project dog(s) on animal-assisted activities (pet therapy) visits, *on or after April 1, 2025*. Any exceptions must be approved by the State 4-H Dog Advisory Committee.
3. Eligibility for showing in an “A” class is defined as “no training or showing experience for the handler and/or dog prior to the county’s current project year.” (A new “project year” typically begins following the exhibitor’s county fair, or State Fair if after the OSF exhibitor’s county fair, or county’s 4-H awards program. Check with your county Extension office for your county’s policy.) Handlers and/or dogs not meeting this requirement **MUST** show in a “B” class. Refer to “A” class information in the rules for each show discipline.
4. Junior Fair exhibitors in respective activities and classes are expected to perform in those events and demonstrate those skills which are listed in these *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Rules*, in the *Ohio 4-H Dog Resource Handbook*, *Ohio 4-H Dog Project and Record Book*, and on the various 2025 dog 4-H judging score sheets.
 - a. Score sheets used in judging are posted under Resources at: go.osu.edu/dog. **Counties MUST use these score sheets for evaluating 4-H dog projects.** *Note:* All applicable score sheets will have 2025 at the bottom of the score sheet.
 - b. Any additional information pertinent to the State Fair Dog Show will be posted on the website at www.go.osu.edu/osfdogs.
5. **ONLY** dogs shown by junior fair exhibitors are permitted on the Fairgrounds. Exceptions can be made for Ohio State Fair show personnel, judges, and volunteers, if requests are made to the State Fair Dog Show Director prior to the first day of the show. **ALL** dogs must comply with the 2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show health requirements.

Safety and Sportsmanship

Permission to Participate in Ohio 4-H Dog Activities Disclosure and Release of Claims:

1. ALL youth enrolled in 4-H dog projects are required to sign the *2025 Permission to Participate in Ohio 4-H Dog Activities Disclosure and Release of Claims* document. A parent or guardian is also required to sign the document.
 - a. This document must be signed each year a youth enrolls in a 4-H dog project and a copy **MUST** be kept on file at the county Extension office.
 - b. Exhibitors and parents/guardians verify they have this signed document on file at their county Extension office and understand and agree to information provided in this document, when signing the *2025 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate*.

Misbehavior and Excusals for Dogs on the Fairgrounds, Show Area, or in the Show Ring

1. Any dog exhibiting unsafe or threatening behavior *at any time before, during, or after exhibition* **MUST** be removed from the fairgrounds and will not be permitted to return at any time throughout the Dog Show. Determination of the show committee and/or judge will be final.
2. The judge or show officials *will immediately* excuse from the ring any dog exhibiting unsafe or threatening behavior.
 - a. The judge will *immediately* excuse any dog that appears dangerous to other dogs or exhibitors.
 - b. Any dog that snaps, bites, or attempts to bite any person or dog while in the show ring will *immediately* be excused.
 - c. If a judge determines that a bitch in the ring is in season or appears to be so attractive to males as to be a disturbing element, the bitch is *immediately* excused. The judge shall not obtain the opinion of the health check officials.
3. Any uncontrolled behavior such as barking, running away from its handler, etc., will be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior, whether it occurs during or between exercises, or before or after judging.
4. Any dog not under its handler's control may be excused from competition.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

1. Any exhibitor or other person(s) abusing a dog will be removed from the fairgrounds.
2. The judge or show officials will dismiss from the ring any exhibitor abusing the dog, which *will* result in disqualification of exhibitor *and* removal from the Fairgrounds.
3. Judges and/or show officials have the right to deduct points from the Sportsmanship category on the exhibitor's score sheet if unsportsmanlike conduct is displayed at any time throughout the 4-H dog show prior to or during judging.
4. Judges and/or show officials have the right to disqualify any participant exhibiting poor sportsmanship at any time throughout the 4-H Dog Show from showing, participating in activities, or from receiving any awards.
5. Any handler who willfully interferes with another competitor or that competitor's dog will be excused from competition.
6. Exhibitors, parents, volunteers, and other individuals verbally and/or physically abusive or threatening to show personnel will be removed from the Fairgrounds, and exhibitors will be disqualified.
7. Show officials have the right to order the removal from the Fairgrounds anyone showing unsportsmanlike conduct.
8. *Exhibitors must check in at their show ring within 15 minutes after being called to their ring. Exhibitors who do not check in at their show ring within 15 minutes after being called will have sportsmanship points deducted on their score sheets.*

Other

1. An exhibitor disciplining a dog in the show ring will be excused from further competition in that class.
2. The judge will not permit any handler to use excessive verbal commands or to move toward the dog to correct it.
3. Exhibitors are totally responsible for their dogs while on the Fairgrounds.
 - a. Dogs must be kept on leash while on the Fairgrounds, except when participating in the ring during judging.
 - b. Dogs must be kenneled in designated areas.
 - c. Exhibitors must clean up after their dogs.
 - d. Dogs are not permitted outside agility show venue and the Buckeye Sports Center except to load, unload, and use the marked Exercise Areas.
 - e. Dogs must not be left unattended.
4. Dogs are not permitted to wear any type of muzzle, prong/pinch collar, or electronic collar while on the fairgrounds.
 - a. Exhibitors will be disqualified if their dogs are seen wearing muzzles, prong/pinch collars, or electronic collars.
5. Only the exhibitor's dog, exhibitor, and show officials are permitted in the show ring area at any time throughout the show.
6. **Judges' decisions are final.** Exhibitors, parents, volunteers, and other individuals **are not permitted** to talk with judges at any time during the Dog Show, except during Agility or Rally briefings and walkthroughs.
 - a. Discussion and/or confrontation with judges may result in disqualification of exhibitor and removal of individuals from the Fairgrounds.
7. Judges, show staff and 4-H Dog Committee reserve the right to withhold class placements.
8. Dogs are not permitted to be dyed or colored in any way. If coat or nails show any evidence of dye or coloring, the score sheet will reflect a major point deduction.

License Requirements

1. Junior Fair exhibitors must list their dogs' license tag numbers on the *2025 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate*. Exception: Assistance Dogs licensed through their respective organizations.

Health Requirements

1. The ***2025 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate*** completed and signed by a licensed veterinarian **is required for exhibition**. The ***2025 County Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate*** is also permitted for use at the Ohio State Fair Dog Show and Ohio State Fair Agility Trial provided the vaccinations are current through the last day of the 2025 OSF Dog competition. **THESE ARE THE ONLY CERTIFICATES THAT WILL BE ACCEPTED AT HEALTH CHECK. HEALTH CHECK CERTIFICATE MUST BE IN PAPER FORM. ELECTRONIC COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** These certificates must include **ALL** information requested in the Identification Form section, completed, signed, and dated by the exhibitor, and signed by the parent/guardian. The administering veterinarian must complete the information requested in the Vaccination Certificate section and may modify it as per Rule 3 in this section. **Other certificates of vaccination, computerized vaccination records, pet record cards, or kennel records will not be accepted. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to make sure all health requirements for State Fair are met.**
 - a. These certificates can be downloaded at: go.osu.edu/osfdogs.
 - b. The use of the *2025 County Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate* must be

approved by the county 4-H professional and must be used consistently throughout the respective county.

2. **ALL** dogs must have current Rabies vaccinations, administered by licensed veterinarians. Veterinarians must document on the *2025 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate* or *2025 County Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate* whether the exhibitor's dog's rabies vaccination is current by filling in the "date expires" blank.
3. ALL dogs must be vaccinated for Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus by licensed veterinarians. If the veterinarian does not administer certain vaccinations, those vaccinations must be noted by the administering veterinarian, either on the vaccination form or letterhead. *The Ohio State Fair Dog Show officials will accept the veterinarian's protocol for their client/patient. For the Ohio State Fair Dog Show and Ohio State Fair Agility Trial, all vaccinations must be current through the last day of the dog competition 2025.* (Note: Vaccination deadlines for county fairs may differ.)
4. *Bordetella* vaccination is recommended, but not required. Consult with your veterinarian.
5. Dogs **CANNOT** be shown at the Ohio State Fair if vaccinations are given by anyone other than a licensed veterinarian.
6. Any dogs exhibiting abnormalities or symptoms of sickness, disease, or parasite infestation as determined by the health check officials will be eliminated from the show and must be removed from the Fairgrounds. If a dog is under veterinary care for a health condition that is not infectious or contagious, the exhibitor must bring a health certificate from the attending veterinarian verifying the condition and treatment. **Decision of the health check officials is final.**
7. ***Bitches showing ANY signs of heat are not permitted on the Fairgrounds. They are not permitted to show!*** Each dog must go through a health check **each** day shown, where all females will be checked for signs of heat. If a bitch shows **any** signs of heat, she will be eliminated from the show and must be removed from the Fairgrounds. Any bitch, which appears so attractive to males as to be a disturbing element, will be eliminated from the show and must be removed from the Fairgrounds. **Decision of the health check officials is final.**
8. Pregnant and/or lactating (nursing) bitches are not permitted on the Fairgrounds and may not be shown.
9. Any male or female dog that is a disturbing element to other dogs will be eliminated from the show and must be removed from the Fairgrounds.
10. Before going to Registration, exhibitors must bring their dog(s) and *2025 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate(s)* to Health Check **each day** they are showing.
11. Incomplete or falsified information on the *2025 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate* or *2025 County Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate* is grounds for dismissal.
 - a. Correction tape or other forms of correction used to cover errors on the ID/Vaccination Certificates is NOT permitted.

Scores and Score Sheets for Ohio State Fair Dog Show

1. Scores will be posted within a reasonable amount of time after each class has been judged. Exhibitors who are tied for the top fifteen places in their respective classes should remain until all classes in the same category are judged, in case of further ties. Failure to stay could mean forfeiture of a possible placing.
2. No one other than show management and judges may view exhibitors' score sheets during the State Fair Dog Show.
3. Score sheets will be returned to the county Extension office about two weeks following the closing day of the State Fair. Score sheets will not be returned during the State Fair Dog Show.

4. Ohio State Fair Dog Show will require minimum scores for placements. Scores falling below the minimum score will not be eligible for placement. The scale is as follows:
 - Rally classes must score 100 points out of a possible 130 points.
 - You and Your Dog, Showmanship must score 190 points out of a possible 230 points.
 - Beginner Novice, Pre-Novice, and Preferred Novice obedience classes must score 190 points out of a possible 230.
 - Novice, Grad Novice, Grad Open, Open, and Utility obedience classes must score 180 points out of a possible 230.

State Fair Championship Title

Exhibitors showing their dogs at the Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show may apply for titling by recording State Fair achievements during their 4-H careers. The junior fair participant, their parent/guardian, and 4-H advisor must document achievements. The Ohio State Fair Championship Title is for the handler, regardless of the number of dogs shown.

Requirements

1. 4-H member may earn one Title per year regardless of the number of dogs shown;
2. 4-H member must accumulate 30 points to earn a Title;
3. Points will carry over from one year to the next;
4. Subsequent Titles will be awarded for each additional 30 points;
5. Points are recorded for the handler; and
6. All State Fair Dog Show participation rules apply.

Point System – Regular Classes

A 4-H member may use multiple dogs the same year to earn points toward an OSF Championship Title provided the dogs are shown in different events. However, in one given year at the Ohio State Fair Dog Shows (2025), youth can receive no more than the following points per event, regardless of the number of dogs exhibited or classes entered in that event:

One (1) point will be awarded for participation in any of these State Fair events:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Freestyle | 9. Pre/Advance Team |
| 2. Drill Team | 10. Brace |
| 3. Rally | 11. 4-H PetPALS |
| 4. Scent Work* | 12. Assistance Dog |
| 5. Showmanship | 13. Poster Contest |
| 6. You and Your Dog | 14. Agility |
| 7. Skillathon | 15. AKC CGC* |
| 8. Obedience | 16. AKC Trick Dog* |

An additional 5 points for earning a gold medal or placing 1st through 15th will be awarded per event, per year, regardless of the number of dogs entered in that event. For example: placement in ONE obedience class, regardless of the number of obedience classes exhibited = 5 points; placement in ONE rally class, regardless of the number of rally classes exhibited = 5 points; placement in ONE agility class, regardless of the number of agility classes exhibited = 5 points. Exhibitors must meet all the criteria according to the score sheet to receive 5 points for the 4-H PetPALS class. Exhibitors must meet all of the expectations according to the score sheet to receive 5 points for the Assistance Dog class.

* For Scent Work, Trick Dog and CGC classes, exhibitors may earn points for participation only. An exhibitor may earn 1 point for participation in ONE Scent Work class, ONE Trick Dog class and ONE CGC class.

Awards: A pin and T-shirt will be presented to each exhibitor receiving his/her first Title at the Ohio State Fair during the Ohio State Fair Dog Show. Exhibitors receiving second titles, third titles, etc. will receive an award depending on sponsorship.

4-H Exhibitor Versatility Award

The purpose of the 4-H Exhibitor Versatility Award (EVA) is to: (1) encourage youth to participate in several classes (including Skillathon and Poster) at the Ohio State Fair Dog Show, and (2) award youth for achieving excellence in the classes in which they are showing or participating. To earn a 4-H Exhibitor Versatility Award, exhibitors must place in FIVE (5) classes as follows: (1) receive a gold medal in Agility; (2) meet all of the expectations according to the score sheet in the Assistance Dog class; (3) meet all of the criteria according to the score sheet in the 4-H PetPALS dog class; (4) place in the top five in all classes receiving placings, including the Skillathon and Poster Contest. Youth violating any of the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Rules* or with points taken off for poor sportsmanship will not be eligible for this award. An exhibitor must show in five (5) classes and earn one placing as described above per class, with one dog in each of those classes. The 4-H Exhibitor Versatility Award is based on the number of classes, not number of dogs per class (i.e. for agility and rally). An exhibitor may earn one 4-H Exhibitor Versatility Award a year.

4-H Exhibitor Versatility Award Forms: Exhibitors must request an EVA form from the registration table. The exhibitor must keep track of their points toward earning the 4-H Exhibitor Versatility Award on this form. Once enough points have been earned to receive this award the completed form must be turned in at the registration table for verification. After verification that points earned are adequate to receive this award, the award will be presented.

Ohio State Fair Entry Information

Terminology

1. **Discipline** – refers to a show category. Each of the following is a Discipline: Showmanship, Obedience (including Team and Brace), Rally, Agility, You and Your Dog, Drill Team, Canine Freestyle, 4-H PetPALS, Assistance Dogs, Tricks, and Canine Good Citizen.
2. **Level** – refers to sub-categories within certain disciplines. For example, Novice is a level in the Obedience discipline; Rally Excellent is a level in the Rally discipline.
3. **Class** – refers to the two classes within certain disciplines and/or discipline levels. The letters “**A**” and “**B**” refer to the experience of the youth **and** dog.
 - a. “**A**” classes are for handlers or dogs with **NO** training or showing experience prior to the county’s current project year. “**A**” classes can never be repeated by the same youth, regardless of what dog is shown. “**A**” classes can never be repeated by the same dog, regardless of what youth shows that dog. Refer to “**A**” class information in the rules for each show discipline.
 - b. “**B**” classes can be repeated by the same youth regardless of what dog is shown, and by the same dog, regardless of who shows that dog, provided the youth and/or dog are not the class winners (exception: Showmanship and You & Your Dog). If/when a youth and/or dog wins first place in a “**B**” class, the youth and dog must move to the next level (exception: Showmanship, You & Your Dog, and specified advanced obedience classes). A dog must move to a higher level within a discipline, once that dog begins performing at that higher level. (Refer to each of the show discipline’s rules for rules specific to that discipline.)

Eligibility

Youth may enter any of the disciplines, levels, and classes they are eligible for as outlined in the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Rules*. The handler and dog must be able to perform the exercises required of the disciplines/levels/class(s) entered. *Youth may not enter classes without both youth and dogs being prepared prior to the State Fair to perform the required exercises. A zero (0) will be given to any handler/dog team not attempting an exercise, except as provided otherwise specifically in the rules. A zero (0) on the exhibitor's score sheet will result in an incomplete for that class, and therefore the exhibitor will not be eligible for an award, except as provided otherwise specifically in the rules.*

Exhibitors may show one or more project dogs, provided the exhibitors and dogs meet the eligibility requirements of each respective class, as follows (refer to each respective show discipline rulebook for more detailed and complete information).

Show Disciplines

1. Agility

Youth may enter any number of project dogs in Agility and are permitted to enter more than one dog per Agility class. Youth showing in Agility may show the same or different project dog(s) in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements.

2. Obedience

Beginner Novice A

Beginner Novice A is for the first-year member and first-year dog with no prior show experience.

Beginner Novice A youth are not permitted to show the same or different dog in any other obedience class. This is like any other "A" class and can never be repeated by youth or dog. Youth may show one project dog in Beginner Novice A.

Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice

Youth may show two or more project dogs in Beginner Novice B and/or Pre-Novice, provided the youth and dog meet eligibility requirements. A dog cannot be shown in both Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice in the same year. Youth may show the same dog in other non-obedience classes and/or a different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. Youth may NOT show the same dog in another obedience class the same year.

Preferred Novice

Youth may show two or more project dogs at the Preferred Novice Level, provided the youth and dog meet class eligibility requirements. Youth may show the same dog in other non-obedience classes. Youth may NOT show the same dog in another obedience class the same year.

Novice

Youth may show one project dog at the Novice A level, provided the youth and dog meet class eligibility requirements. Youth may show two or more project dogs at the Novice B level, provided the youth and dog meet class eligibility requirements. Youth may show the same dog in other non-obedience classes and/or a different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. Youth may NOT show the same dog in another obedience class the same year.

Advanced Obedience

Youth may show two project dogs in each of the following Obedience classes: Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open, and Utility provided youth and dogs meet eligibility requirements. Level "A" and "B" in Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open and Utility will be combined into single classes, without designation of experience. Classes provided at these levels will be listed as Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open and Utility. Youth may show the same dog or different dog in other non-obedience disciplines and/or a different dog in other obedience levels provided they meet those eligibility requirements. Youth may NOT show the same dog in another obedience class the same year.

3. Brace

Youth must show two project dogs that are capable of performing the Novice exercises. Youth may show the same dogs or different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. Youth showing in Beginner Novice or Pre-Novice classes cannot show in Brace.

4. Teams

Pre-Novice Team: Youth may enter two or more project dogs in Beginner Novice B and/or Pre-Novice and may enter more than one dog in Pre-Novice team provided the project dogs entered are for different teams.

Advanced Team: Youth may show a Novice level or above project dog in the Advanced Team class if having multiple dogs. Youth may participate in a second Advanced Team class provided they use a different project dog. Youth may show the same dog or different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements.

Team alternates must enter online for their respective Team class to be eligible to replace another team member.

5. Rally

Youth may show a maximum of two project dogs per Rally level. A level is Rally Novice, Rally Intermediate, Rally Advanced, or Rally Excellent. Therefore, youth may show two dogs in Rally Novice B, two dogs in Rally Intermediate B, two dogs in Rally Advanced, and two dogs in Rally Excellent. Youth may show the same dog or different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements.

6. Showmanship

Showmanship classes are based on age of youth and show experience of the youth and dog. Therefore, an exhibitor and dog can show in **ONE** Showmanship class only. Youth may show the same dog or different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements.

7. You and Your Dog

You and Your Dog classes are based on the age of youth. Therefore, an exhibitor and dog can show in **ONE** You and Your Dog class only. Youth may show the same dog or different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. Youth may share one project dog with a sibling for this show discipline only. Both siblings may enter a You and Your Dog class. Refer to *You and Your Dog* rules for completion requirements of the *Dog Project and Record Book* for judging.

8. 4-H PetPALS

Youth **MUST** be enrolled in the 4-H PetPALS Project No. 230 to be eligible to enter this class. Youth may show the same dog or different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. (Note: Youth who have more than one 4-H PetPALS species [i.e. a dog and a rabbit, or dog and cat, etc.] can enter the rabbit or cat, etc. in 4-H PetPALS Day held (Date TBD) in the Youth Center.)

9. Assistance Dogs

- a. Assistance Dogs must be 6 months of age by show date. Youth taking Assistance Dog projects may show their Assistance Dogs in You and Your Dog classes. Youth must show in the appropriate age You and Your Dog level.
- b. Youth taking Assistance Dogs may show their Assistance Dogs in one Beginning Obedience level/class (Beginner Novice A, Beginner Novice B, or Pre-Novice) that meets the exhibitor's experience eligibility. Youth showing Assistance Dogs may show a different project dog(s) in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements.
- c. Youth taking Assistance Dogs may enter the Canine Good Citizen class.
- d. Youth taking Assistance Dogs may also participate in the Poster Contest and Skillathon.

10. Canine Freestyle

Youth may show one project dog in a maximum of two Canine Freestyle classes, with the following exception: Youth showing in the Sassy Seniors class may NOT show this senior dog in another Freestyle class.

- *To show in a Canine Freestyle class at the Ohio State Fair, youth and their dogs must have practiced a routine and be prepared to perform the routine to the best of their abilities, as a result of training and practice.*

Youth may show the same dog or different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements.

11. Drill Team

Drill Team entries must consist of no more than two Drill Team entries per county. The same youth may participate on more than one Drill Team in their county provided they use a different project dog. Refer to the Drill Team rules for cross-county Drill Team eligibility. Refer to the Drill Team rules for the number/size of Drill Teams per county permitted to show. Youth may show the same dog or different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements.

- Drill Team entries must be made online. Drill Team alternates must enter online for their respective Drill Team class to be eligible to replace another team member.

12. AKC Trick Dog

Youth may enter AKC Trick Dog classes with the same or different project dog(s) and are permitted to enter more than one dog per Trick Dog class. Youth showing in AKC Trick Dog may show the same or different project dog(s) in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. AKC Trick Dog classes offered include Novice Trick Dog, Intermediate Trick Dog, and Advanced Trick Dog.

- *To show in an AKC Trick Dog class at the Ohio State Fair, youth and their dogs must have practiced the tricks performed and be prepared to perform to the best of their abilities, as a result of training and practice.*

13. AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC)

Youth may enter AKC CGC classes with the same or different project dog(s) and are permitted to enter any number of project dogs in AKC CGC. Youth showing in AKC CGC may show the same or different project dog(s) in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. **To show in an AKC CGC class at the Ohio State Fair, youth and their dogs must have practiced the test exercises and be prepared to perform to the best of their abilities, as a result of training and practice.*

14. Scent Work

Youth may show only one project dog in each of the offered Scent Work classes. Youth may show the same dog in another offered Scent Work class(es) or a different dog in another offered Scent Work class provided they meet the eligibility requirements. Youth may show the same dog or a different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements.

Rally Rules for Ohio 4-H/Ohio State Fair Participation

Note: These Rules and Regulations are in effect for the 2025 Ohio State Fair. It is strongly recommended that these Rules and Regulations be followed at the county level. Rally signs required for use in competition by the American Kennel Club (AKC), effective November 2017, must be used.

AKC Rally Information

AKC Rally information including signs can be found at <https://www.akc.org/sports/rally/>.

AKC Rally Regulations can be found at http://images.akc.org/pdf/AKC1193_ROR001_1217_WEB.pdf.

Introduction

Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by the rally judge. All exhibitors in a class are required to perform the same signs in substantially the same way so the relative quality of the various performances may be compared and scored. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at a brisk pace through a course designed by the rally judge, of designated signs. Each of these signs provides instructions regarding the next skill to be performed via words, directional arrows, colors, and geometric shapes. After the judge's order of "Forward," the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered signs correctly. The dog and handler move continuously throughout the course with the dog under control at the handler's left side. There is a clear sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during and between the numbered signs; however, perfect heel position is not required.

Refer to the AKC Rally Regulations for more information:

http://images.akc.org/pdf/AKC1193_ROR001_1217_WEB.pdf.

Ring Size and Conditions

The ring sizes for Rally shall be 40 x 50 feet to 50 x 60 feet (between 2,000 and 3,000 square feet) with a minimum width of 30 feet. The floor must have firm footing, using rubber or similar non-slip material at least 4 feet wide for the takeoffs and landings of all jumps, unless the judge feels the surface does not require it. At an outdoor show, the ground should be clean and level. Any grass should be cut short.

Rally Signs

Rally signs required for use in competition by the American Kennel Club (AKC), effective November 2017, must be used. The designated wording and symbols must be used for all Rally signs. Signs must be a minimum of 8 ½ X 11 inches and a maximum of 11 x 17 inches. Colors used are optional. Refer to the AKC Rally Regulations for more information about Rally signs.

Handler's Appearance

Exhibitors should be neat, clean, and well-groomed in appearance. They should wear clothing that is comfortable to handle in and appropriate for dog shows. Clothing should not distract, limit or hinder the judge's view of the dog. Youth with long hair should tie it back to keep it from interfering with handling or the judge's view.

- **Acceptable clothing** for all Rally classes includes slacks, dressy shorts, skorts, capri or crop pants, colored dress jeans, collared blouses and shirts, polo shirts, or similar attire, closed-toe shoes, rubber-soled shoes, flats, and similar type footwear.
- **Inappropriate clothing** includes clothing that is too tight or too revealing, such as short skirts, short shorts, tank tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, low cut blouses or shirts, shorts hanging

too low on the waist, clothing with holes or tears in the fabric, blue jeans, faded or torn jeans of any kind, or other similar types of clothing. Do not wear shirts with club names or logos, or clothing with lettering and distracting or offensive wording or designs. Do not wear hats. Do not wear sandals, open-toed shoes, high-heeled shoes, clogs, or similar type footwear. *Exhibitors dressed inappropriately will have points deducted or may be excused from the show ring.*

Dog's Appearance

Dogs must be clean, well-brushed and in good physical condition appropriate for the dog's age. The coat must be free from mats and loose hair. Dogs are not permitted to be dyed or colored in any way. If coat or nails show any evidence of dye or coloring, the score sheet will reflect a major point deduction.

Hair in Dog's Eyes

Any dog whose hair surrounding the eyes, ears, or beard interferes with its performance may have its hair tied back with elastic bands or small plain barrettes. Ribbons or bows are not permitted.

Collars

Acceptable collars while in the rally show ring: Well-fitting plain buckle or quick release collars, martingales, or slip collars of an appropriate single length of leather, fabric or chain with two rings, one on each end. Flat securely attached tags are permitted on these collars. Nothing may be hanging from the dog's collar.

- ***Acceptable collars while outside the show ring:*** Head halters, fancy collars, harnesses and studded collars are permitted on dogs.
- ***Unacceptable collars anywhere on the Fairgrounds:*** Pinch collars, collars with prongs or spikes on inside or outside, electronic collars, or any other special training collars, or muzzles. Youth are subject to disqualification from showing and removal from the Fairgrounds if their dogs are seen wearing these collars or devices.

Leashes

For Rally Novice classes, leashes must be made of fabric or leather and long enough to provide adequate slack.

All dogs must be kept on leash except when in the show ring or exercise area, and must be brought into and taken out of the ring on leash. Dogs must be kept on leash in the ring when brought in to receive awards.

Interference and Double Handling

Assistance, interference, or attempts to control a dog from outside the ring is not permitted. A judge who is aware of such double handling or interference must substantially penalize the dog.

Fouling the Ring

A 25-point deduction will be made for any dog fouling the ring. The exhibitor and his/her dog are not to be excused from the ring. Judging is to continue once the area is properly cleaned.

Fouling includes urine, feces or vomit. In exceptionally poor ring conditions, judges must confer with the show committee and other judges to determine scoring if fouling should occur.

Levels and Classes

Level refers to a Rally sub-category, such as Rally Novice. **Class** refers to the two classes within the Rally sub-category. The letters “**A**” and “**B**” refer to the experience of the youth and dog. “**A**” classes are for handlers or dogs with NO training or showing experience prior to the county’s current project year. “**A**” classes can never be repeated by the same youth, regardless of what dog is shown. “**A**” classes can never be repeated by the same dog, regardless of what youth shows that dog. “**B**” classes can be repeated by the same youth regardless of what dog is shown, and by the same dog, regardless of who shows that dog, provided the youth and/or dog are not the class winners. Handlers or dogs winning first place in a “**B**” class, must move to the next level the next project year. A dog must move to a higher level, once that dog begins performing at that higher level.

Earning Rally Titles Outside of 4-H

Exhibitors showing their dogs at any Licensed or Member Rally Obedience Trial or at a Sanctioned Match must show their dogs at the same or higher level B classes than they are showing in AKC, UKC, or other titling shows. Dogs completing their Rally Novice (RN) title (or UKC or other titling equivalents) prior to July 1, 2025, must show in Rally Intermediate classes. Dogs completing their Rally Intermediate (RI) Title (or UKC or other titling equivalents) must show in Rally Advanced classes. Dogs completing their Rally Advanced (RA) title (or UKC, or other titling equivalents) prior to July 1, 2025, must show in the Rally Excellent class. Any dog receiving one or more legs toward a title anytime during the project year must then move into the appropriate B class at the time the first leg was earned. Fun matches do not apply.

Rally Classes Offered at 2025 Ohio State Fair

The following Rally classes will be offered at the Ohio State Fair:

Rally Novice A
Rally Novice B

Rally Intermediate A
Rally Intermediate B

Rally Advanced
Rally Excellent

Rally Classes Information

Rally is a different discipline than Obedience. Moving up in one discipline does not mean a mandatory move-up in another discipline.

Unless otherwise specified in the Rally Regulations, handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and or signals using one or both arms, clap their hands, pat their legs or use any verbal means of encouragement. The handler must move in a natural manner. The handler’s arms need not be maintained in any particular position.

At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands, intimidating signals, and touching the dog (unless specified in the Rally Regulations) or any physical corrections will be penalized. Any kind of whistling is prohibited.

Youth may show a maximum of two project dogs per Rally level. Rally levels include Rally Novice, Rally Intermediate, Rally Advanced, and Rally Excellent. Youth may enter Rally classes each day.

Rally Novice A and B classes and Rally Intermediate A and B classes are performed entirely on leash. Rally Advanced is performed off leash. Rally Excellent is performed off leash.

Awards for exhibitors placing in Rally will be presented each day.

Rally Novice

All exercises are judged on leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. Rally Novice A and B must have 10 to 15 signs (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) stationary signs per class. There are no jumps in this class.

Rally Novice A

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog that has no training or showing experience in Rally prior to the county's current project year. Once an exhibitor and/or dog shows in this class, they must move to Rally Novice B at the very minimum. This class can never be repeated by an exhibitor or dog. Exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show* to participate in Rally at the Ohio State Fair.

Rally Novice B

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has had prior experience showing at the Rally Novice level prior to the county's current project year. *Exhibitors and dogs have not yet progressed to the Rally Intermediate A level or higher. Once winning this class, the exhibitor and/or dog must move to Rally Intermediate A at the very minimum the next project year. Exhibitors who place second (2nd) through fifth (5th) in three (3) Rally Novice B classes at the Ohio State Fair in the same year or over an accumulate period of time with the same dog must move to Rally Intermediate A at the very minimum.* Exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show* to participate in Rally at the Ohio State Fair.

Rally Intermediate

For Rally Intermediate classes, all signs are judged on leash. Rally Intermediate must have 12 to 17 signs (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) stationary signs. Intermediate courses will have a minimum of three (3) Advanced level signs. There are no jumps in this class.

Rally Intermediate A

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who have not had any training or showing experience at the Rally Intermediate level prior the county's current project year. If they have any training or showing experience at the Rally Intermediate level prior to the county's current project year, they must show at the Rally Intermediate B level at the very minimum. Once an exhibitor shows in this class, they must move to Rally Intermediate B at the very minimum. Once a dog has been shown in this class, the dog must be shown in the Rally Intermediate B class at the very minimum. Exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show* to participate in Rally at the Ohio State Fair.

Rally Intermediate B

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has shown in Rally Intermediate A or has had any training or showing experience at the Rally Intermediate level prior to the county's current project year. Once winning this class, the exhibitor and/or dog must move to Rally Advanced A at the very minimum the next project year. Exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show* to participate in Rally at the Ohio State Fair.

Rally Advanced

For Rally Advanced classes, all signs are judged off leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. Rally Advanced must have between 12 - 17 stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) stationary exercises per class. Courses shall have a minimum of three Advanced level signs plus one required jump per class. The dog is required to jump once in this class.

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who have not had any training or showing experience at the Rally Advanced level prior the county's current project year. If an exhibitor and/or dog wins first place at the Ohio State Fair, they must move to Rally Excellent the next project year. Exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show* to participate in Rally at the Ohio State Fair.

Rally Excellent

All signs are judged off leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. Rally Excellent must have between 15 to 20 stations (Start, Finish and Call marker not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) stationary exercises. The dog is required to jump twice utilizing one or two jumps. Courses shall have a minimum of two (2) Advanced level stations and a minimum of three (3) Excellent level stations, plus the two (2) required jumps and the Sit Stay sign. Unlike in the Rally Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced classes, in Rally Excellent, handlers are not allowed to pat their legs or clap their hands to encourage the dog.

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who have not had any training or showing experience at the Rally Excellent level prior the county's current project year. If an exhibitor and/or dog wins first place at the Ohio State Fair, they can repeat this class at the Ohio State Fair provided the county requirements have been met. Exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show* to participate in Rally at the Ohio State Fair. Dogs shown in this class are not permitted to show in any lower levels of Rally.

Jumps

A dog is required to jump once in the Advanced class and twice in the Excellent class.

Jumps may be any jumps used as standard equipment in 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. Designs should be such that they do not interfere with the jumping of a dog. Various colors and decorations are allowed; however, there must be nothing hanging from the jump.

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, and one hurdle will be used for a jump of 8 inches. When decreasing the number of hurdles in the jump, the highest hurdle will be removed first.

The **High Jump** will consist of two uprights and solid boards of varying widths that combine to make each dog's required jump height. The high jump will be 5 feet wide (if from a 5-foot set) and built to be at a height of 4 inches and adjustable in increments of 4 inches up to 16 inches. The uprights of the high

jump will be 4 feet high. In additions, two 8-inchboards and one 4-ince board should be available for use. The height of each board will be indicated in black 2-inch numbers.

A 4-inch high jump board will be supplied for dogs that have a height at the withers of less than 10 inches. This jump height will be constructed so the maximum height does not exceed 4 inches, with a half-inch tolerance. This can be a separate board or support system placed between the two standard uprights. The high jump board used to create this 4-inch jump height can be supported by a means other than the two standards.

The **Bar Jump** has two uprights that are constructed to support only a striped bar which is set at the dog's required jump height. The bar jump will consist of a bar that is between 2- and 2 ½-inches square with the edges rounded to remove any sharpness. The bar will be black and white in alternate sections each about 3 inches wide. The bar will have the weight of wood. It will be supported by two unconnected 4-foot upright posts about 5 feet apart (if from a 5-foot set) and built to be set at a height of 4 inches and adjustable in increments of 4 inches up to 16 inches. The bar jump may be used in the same way as the high jump. However, if the bar jump is to be used as a jump in both directions, the uprights must be offset to allow the bar to be knocked off from either direction without affecting the uprights.

Height of Dog at Withers	Height to be Jumped
Less than 10 inches	4 inches
10 inches to less than 15 inches	8 inches
15 inches to less than 20 inches	12 inches
20 inches and over	16 inches

Note: After sending the dog to the jump the handler may pause as needed, but must not pass the jump until the dog has returned to the heel position.

Jump Heights

The dog's jump height shall be listed 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. All 4-H dogs jump the height listed above.

Timing

All performances will be timed. Timing will begin when the judge gives the order "Forward" and will end when dog and handler cross the Finish sign. Times will be used only in the event of ties for a placement. The maximum course time for Rally classes is four (4) minutes. **A handler/dog team who exceeds the 4-minute time limit will not be eligible for placings/awards.** Times will be recorded but not posted.

Rally Scoring

The maximum number of points that can be deducted for any sign is 10, with the exception of a Maximum Point Deduction. **There will be an additional 25-point deduction for each Station not attempted by the handler.**

Incorrectly Performed (IP) signs occur when a team attempts a sign and fails to perform the principal parts of the station on the first attempt. The handler may choose to retry the sign once for a correct performance, accepting the mandatory 3-point deduction for the retry of the sign. The sign is considered

an IP if the handler chooses not to retry or fails to perform the sign correctly on the second attempt. (This means the handler and dog have two (2) attempts to correctly perform a sign.) **Handler errors** can be assessed from 1 to 10 points up to Maximum Point Deductions. Handler errors can be assessed at any sign or during movement between signs on a course. Once a handler has stopped on any halt exercise, the handler cannot move their feet to assist a dog without incurring a handler error.

Ties will be broken by the fastest time, with the fastest time winning.

Awards

A trophy will be presented to the first-place winner in Rally Novice A, Rally Novice B, Rally Intermediate A, Rally Intermediate B, Rally Advanced, and Rally Excellent classes each day. First through fifteenth place rosettes will be awarded in Rally Novice A, Rally Novice B, Rally Intermediate A, Rally Intermediate B, Rally Advanced, and Rally Excellent classes each day. Ohio State Fair Dog Show will require minimum scores for placement. Rally classes must score 100 points out of a possible 130 points.

Rally Class Progression

Rally Novice A	-	1 year, then move to Rally Novice B class (Rally Novice A class can never be repeated by handler OR dog)
Rally Novice B	-	Can repeat this class with same dog until placing 2 nd through 5 th over an accumulative period of time in three (3) Rally Novice B classes at OSF with same dog. If winning first place in Rally Novice B, handler and dog MUST move to the Rally Intermediate level the next year at very minimum.
Rally Intermediate A	-	1 year, then move to Rally Intermediate B class (Rally Intermediate A can never be repeated by handler OR dog)
Rally Intermediate B	-	can repeat this class with same dog or different dog until handler and dog win first place; then MUST progress to Rally Advanced level the next year
Rally Advanced	-	can repeat class with same dog or different dog until handler and dog win first place; then MUST progress to Rally Excellent level the next year
Rally Excellent	-	can repeat class with same dog or different dog

Glossary of Rally Terms (Taken from AKC Rally Regulations)

AKC Canine Partners – an American Kennel Club program that is available to spayed/neutered dogs that are not currently eligible for AKC registration, AKC Foundation Stock Service (FSS) enrollment or an AKC Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) number

Brisk, briskly – keenly alive, alert, energetic

Command – verbal order from handler to dog

Deductions:

Minor deduction – 1 to 2 points

Minor to Substantial Deduction – 1 to 10 points

Substantial Deduction – 6 to 10 points

- Re-tries of a station are an automatic 3-point deduction (not permitted in the Masters Class or for jumps or Sit Stay)
- Incorrectly Performed stations are an automatic 10-point deduction

Directly – immediately, without deviation or hesitation

Down – the dog’s body is on the ground; the dog’s weight is off the feet and legs

Finish – the dog moves smartly to heel position

Front – a dog sits in front of the handler, close enough that the handler can touch the dog’s head

Guiding Gently by the Collar – control of the dog by holding any part of the collar with minimal pressure on the dog’s neck

Handler Returns to Heel Position – the handler must return to heel position by walking around behind the dog (unless otherwise stated in these Regulations)

Heel Position – the dog is at the handler’s left side, facing the same direction the handler is facing; the dog’s body is within the area of the handler’s left hip; and the dog should be close to, but not crowding its handler so that the handler has freedom of motion at all times

Incorrectly Performed Station (IP) - one or more principal parts of a station not performed or performed incorrectly

Lack of Briskness – a handler walking slowly to accommodate and/or adapt to their dog

Lame - irregularity or impairment of the function of locomotion, irrespective of the cause or how slight or severe

Luring - the appearance of having a reward in hand. e.g. holding the thumb and first two fingers together as if holding a treat. No treat need be present.

Natural Manner - not artificial; free of affectation; what is customarily expected in the home or public places

Order – direction from judge to handler, either verbal or nonverbal

Out of position – a dog that is forging, lagging, wide or not facing the same direction the handler is facing

Pause - a complete stop of forward motion by the handler

Pivot - turning in the circle occupied by the handler before they started the turn; a turn in place together

Pleading - repeated urgent commands and/or signals to elicit the proper behavior from the dog while the dog remains unresponsive to handler’s commands or signals.

Regularly Trained or Instructed – where a dog and/or handler meet on a regular basis for instruction. A regular basis is considered a set pattern of dates, such as monthly or more often

Retry a Sign – a sign that is redone in its entirety, including the approach, before beginning the next sign

Signal – nonverbal direction from the handler to dog

Sit – the dog has its rear and/or hocks on the ground

Sign Not Attempted By The Handler - a sign skipped/missed by the handler before attempting the next sign

Smartly – quickly, vigorously

Tight Leash – a leash without slack; pulling

Training – as related to where a student-handler/teacher-judge relationship is established, with or without compensation

Turn in Place – turning in a circle that was occupied by the handler before they started to turn; a pivot

Withers – highest point of the dog’s shoulder

Contact Information

Websites: www.go.osu.edu/dog www.go.osu.edu/osfdogs

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