

Rally is the newest dog sport in town!

Rally became an official, AKC titling event in 2005. Rally is a variation obedience in which handlers and dogs complete a course which has been designed by a judge. The course comprises a series of obedience exercises to be done as continuous performance, rather than as discrete tests. There's a set of small signs describing the exercises to be performed at the various stations. You move through the course at your own pace, rather than according to a judge's orders. (Handlers get to walk the course beforehand, as in agility.) Rally scoring isn't as rigorous or formal as in competition obedience (which rallyers call "classic obedience"). For example, if you or your dog makes an error at a station, you're allowed to redo it with only a minor point deduction. Also, rally handlers are allowed to use vocal praise and encouragement in the ring — includes clapping your hands and patting your leg. This interaction with your dog makes rally an ideal way to start your dog in competition or to begin your career in dog sports.

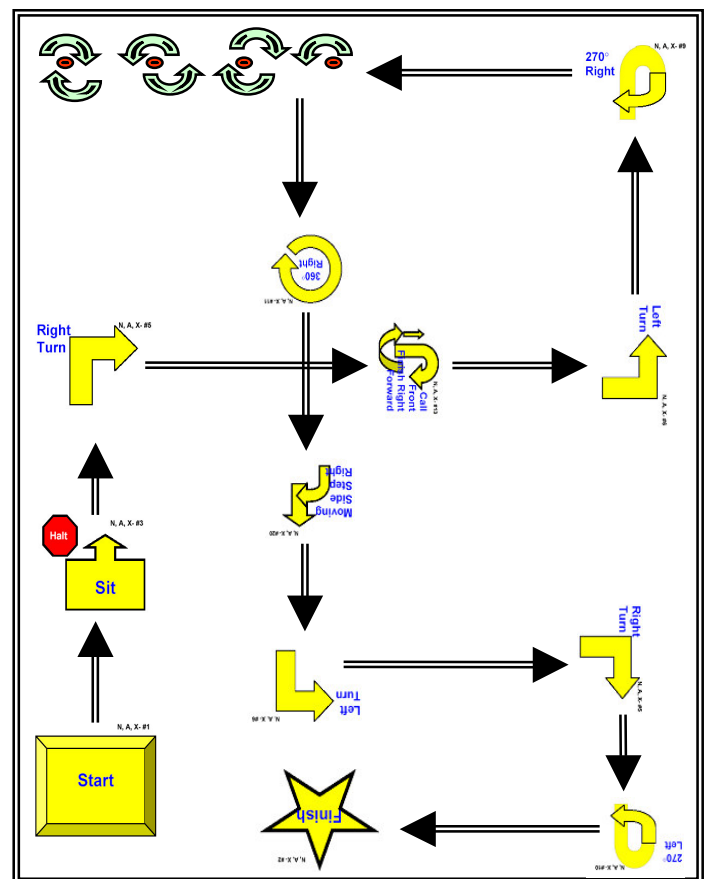


The idea for rally has been around for a while, and many rally exercises rally are what people have been doing for years in training classes. Rally includes various kinds of heeling patterns, including turns and changes of pace, and some stationary exercises (such as a sit or down). Some of you can see how it derived from British "working trials" and other dog sports. As a sport, rally was designed by Charles "Bud" Kramer, who originated UKC agility, and intended to be a kind of bridge between pet training and competition training — and to help entice more people into competition obedience. Currently, AKC and a few other organizations have rally programs which are all similar in about the same way that various agility organizations have similar programs.

AKC rally has three levels, or classes, in ascending order of difficulty — Novice, Advanced, and Excellent, to earn the RN, RA, and RE titles respectively. A qualifying score in rally is 70 points or better, out of a possible 100. Timing is used only as a tie-breaker for placements. To get a title, you need three qualifying scores under at least two different judges.

In the **Rally Novice** class, everything is on leash, and the courses have 10 to 15 stations (not including *Start* and *Finish*), with up to five stationary exercises — that is, ones involving a halt. There are no jumps in Novice.

Here's a sample Rally Novice course. By the way, the rally ring is 70X100 — rather larger than a traditional obedience ring.



In AKC rally, there are A and B classes, similar to obedience. The B classes are for experienced handlers, such as those of us who already have AKC obedience titles. Rally Novice A is for tyros who have never put a AKC obedience title or rally title on a dog; Rally Novice B is for handlers who already have an AKC obedience title or an RN on another dog.

In the **Rally Advanced** class, all of the exercises are off leash, and there are 12 to 17 stations, with up to seven stationary exercises, and one jumping exercise — a broad jump, high jump, or bar jump. The jump heights in rally are very modest:

Dog's height	High/Bar Jump	Broad Jump
Under 15"	8"	16" (2 boards)
15" to under 20"	12"	24" (2 boards)
20" and over	16"	32" (3 boards)

Rally Advanced A is for dogs who have an RN title but not an AKC obedience title; Rally Advanced B is for dogs who have an RN as well as an AKC obedience title, or if the handler has put an AKC obedience title on another dog.

In the **Rally Excellent** class, everything is, of course, off leash, and there are 15 to 20 stations, with two jumps and up to seven stationary exercises. Also, the handlers are somewhat more restricted in the kinds of encouragement they can use with their dogs.

Rally Excellent A is for dogs who have an RA title but not any AKC obedience titles; Rally Excellent B is for dogs who have an RA or an AKC obedience title, or if the handler has put an AKC obedience title on another dog.

Here's a quick summary of the AKC rally classes. For more information, see the AKC Web site for rally rules and regulations — www.akc.org/rules/rally.cfm.

	Rally Novice	Rally Advanced	Rally Excellent
Leash?	All on leash	All off leash	
Interactions allowed?	Vocal praise and encouragement and multiple commands and signals are allowed — including hand clapping or patting your leg		No hand clapping or patting your leg; however, other voice commands and <i>inaudible</i> signals are allowed
Number of stations?¹	10–15	12–17	15–20
Stationary exercises?	No more than 5	No more than 7	
Jumping exercises?	None	1	2
Enter in A class?	No AKC rally titles or obedience titles	RN but no AKC obedience titles	RA but no AKC obedience titles
Enter in B class?	No AKC rally titles	RN	RA

¹ Not counting *Start* and *Finish*

Rally online resources



- ❖ AKC Rally Regulations
www.akc.org/rules/rally.cfm
- ❖ Bud Kramer & Rally Obedience
<http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~kramerc/home.htm>
- ❖ Rally Obedience Guidebook (Pat Knepley)
www.geocities.com/rallyobedience/guidebook.htm
- ❖ Rally Obedience
www.rallyobedience.com
- ❖ K9Rally
www.k9rally.com
- ❖ Rally Obedience – Durham Kennel Club
www.gracegift.info/rally/rally_index.html
- ❖ Rally exercises described, with signs
www.rysong.com/lurikeen/Desc%20and%20Perf%20of%20Exercises%20with%20Signs.htm
- ❖ AKC Rally Signs (thumbnails)
www.mindspring.com/~beamoore/AKCRallyThumbnails-Class.pdf AND [AKC%20RallyThumbnails.pdf](http://www.mindspring.com/~beamoore/AKC%20RallyThumbnails.pdf)
- ❖ Rally O! Signs
www.rallyosigns.com
- ❖ Rally flash cards
<http://rally.canissapiens.com>
- ❖ Rally Dog
www.rallydog.com
- ❖ Rally obedience laminated signs and cards, bandanas
www.akcrallyobedience.com
www.cherik.com/Dogs/Rally_Obedience/Rally.html
- ❖ Assn of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT) Rally Obedience
www.apdt.com/rallyo/index.htm AND [performance-standards/performance-standards.htm](http://www.apdt.com/performance-standards/performance-standards.htm)
- ❖ Rally Obedience Regulations & Judges Guidelines
www.wcotc-dogs.org/rallyobedience.htm
- ❖ Canadian Assn of Rally Obedience (CARO)
www.canadianrallyo.ca
- ❖ “Secrets of a Stunning Performance” by Linda Sperco
www.sthuberts.org/petpouri/articles/Rally.asp
- ❖ Cindy Pischke on rally:
 - Exercise #20: Moving Side Step Right
www.everythinggolden.com/new_page_56.htm
 - 270° Right and Left Turns
www.everythinggolden.com/new_page_57.htm
 - Exercises #13-16: Call front and finish
www.everythinggolden.com/new_page_59.htm
 - Exercise #48: Moving Stand, Walk Around Dog
www.everythinggolden.com/new_page_65.htm
 - Exercise #24: Serpentine, Weave Once
www.everythinggolden.com/new_page_98.htm
 - “How to Improve Your Scores!”
www.everythinggolden.com/new_page_66.htm