RallyOnline Group

How to lay a course ?

- Check what space you have available (basic size of a Rally Ring is 13 x 13m)... some courses are smaller, some (particularly higher levels) are larger. Some courses lend themselves to being shrunk to fit a little bit, some will work better (particularly with a larger /longer dog) is spread out a bit more.
- On the plan most ROL courses show size around the edges in meters. The RKC rules state that the minimum distance between exercises is 2.5m. Gaps between cones & distractions within exercises is approximately 1.5m.
- Changes of pace (i.e. slow /fast pace) have their own distances and should be laid in line with RKC rules.
- In the lower levels exercises stand alone, as you go up the levels then exercises may include two parts (signs A & B) – the spacings within exercises should be in line with the RKC rules.
- Check your intended camera position matches the X on the course plan, and consider the viewing direction (e.g. not into any sunshine, nor in/out of deep shadows). Most camera positions are on the corner of a ring – to help with the width of view on a camera phone in landscape orientation.
- Next step is to look at the course plan – and how the exercises look "across the ring" – judges design courses to give them as clear a view as possible of an exercise.... So it is not only the layout of the route the team will work that matters – but also how the exercises look in relation to the rest of the ring.
- Hints – check that you can *pass* the start and finish signs in the correct direction – not just get level with them! This also applies to the bonus exercise – and check the bonus is laid in the location AND direction shown on the plan.
- Check that the whole of the course is in view on the video – and that neither handler nor dog go out of shot at any point. It is helpful to put "outer limit" markers out at the edge of the camera view – so when working your dog, you know that if you remain inside the outer limits, you will be in view.
- If not sure when starting out course laying, or when you progress to a higher level /more complicated course... then have a go laying it out, and send a photograph to CRS at admin@rallyonline.org (or pm Sally Sanford on social media)... help and advice are available. If you only have the opportunity to lay the course once, then plan ahead with Sally to ensure she is going to be available to offer assistance at the relevant time.