RallyOnline Group

RALLY ONLINE RULES & REGULATIONS 2026

These rules apply to all ROL Video Events. This document should be read in conjunction with each event schedule AND in conjunction with the up to date Royal Kennel Club Rally (S) regulations. RKC regulations are updated yearly on 1 January.

1. RallyOnline Group events run as close as possible to all relevant Royal Kennel Club rules and regulations.
2. Judges & Reserve Judges will be listed in the ROL schedule for each event, alongside the class(es) they have been appointed to. Further Judges will be appointed as required.
3. ROL events have no sponsorship.
4. **ENTRY FEES –** The entry fee is £5 per class and must be paid at time of entry form submission.
5. There is no prize money on offer at this event. Commemorative certificates for all achieving qualifying scores. All scribesheets & certificates will be emailed to handlers after results published on website.
6. Rally Online Courses will be posted on the RallyOnline Website & entries will open at 12.00 (NOON) on the date contained in the schedule and close at 12.00 (NOON) 14 days later. The official competition and judging date is the Saturday following. Judging will be completed by the end of the weekend, or as soon as possible thereafter. *** Time will be either British Summer Time or Greenwich Mean Time – ie. UK time.
7. The Organisers reserve to themselves the right to refuse entries.
8. In the event that the competition is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, the group will refund fees, less reasonably incurred expenses.
9. Should a judge be unable to fulfil their appointment the organiser reserves the right to appoint an alternative judge.
10. Should circumstances so dictate the organiser, in consultation with the judges, may alter arrangements as necessary. Such changes will be reported on the ROL website and Handlers private Facebook group.
11. Only dogs of six calendar months of age and over on the day of Judging are eligible to take part in Level 1 and 2 classes. Only dogs of 12 calendar months of age and over on the day of Judging are eligible to take part in Level 3 or higher classes or special classes which incorporate jumps or similar exercises.
12. Ring numbers (Pre Competition Registration) must have been obtained from The Rally Online Group website prior to video submission.

13. A ROL ring number applies to the specific team of one handler plus one dog.
14. A team defined by their ROL ring number may only compete in once in any class.
15. Prior to submitting an entry - handlers may submit an Exercise Modification Request form (by email) to be held by ROL group and shared with the relevant judge – EMR's allow reasonable accommodations to exercises due to handler disabilities. This may be required due to a temporary handicap or an ongoing condition.
16. No person shall carry out punitive correction or harsh handling of any dog at any time within their video.
17. No competitor shall impugn the decisions of the Judge or Judges.
18. Judges' discretion prevails and Judges' decisions are final.
19. Food or toys shall not be carried in the ring or given to a dog in the video, exception Special & Reward Classes where outlined for each individual class.
20. **Mats and /or matting used in the video – must exceed 70% of the total course area or it will be considered a training aid (e.g. take off /landing mats). Any matting less than approximately 70% of area will be awarded an NQ score in line with use of other training aids.**
21. The attention of competitors is drawn specifically to the Competition Regulations - Where an owner makes an entry on behalf of another joint registered owner(s) or where an agent enters on behalf of a single or joint registered owner(s) such person must have the authority and consent from the single or joint registered owner(s) to sign the entry form on their behalf thereby binding them all to the RallyOnline Group Rules and Regulations. In the event of any dispute, evidence of such authority and consent will be required.
22. Welfare of Dogs –An exhibitor (or competitor) whose dog is entered at an event should take all reasonable steps to ensure the needs of their dog(s) are met, and should not knowingly put their dogs' health and welfare at risk by any action, default, omission or otherwise.

<u>Specific Rules for Online Rally Competitions</u>

23. It is the competitor's responsibility to submit a video which can be fairly judged.
24. **The ROL entry form contains the following tick boxes – which must ALL be completed before an entry can be accepted.**
    - **"I/We agree to submit to and be bound by the RallyOnline Group Rules & Regulations in relation to all canine matters with which the RallyOnline Group is concerned and that this is made upon the basis that all current single or joint registered owners of this dog(s) have authorised/consented to this entry. I/We also undertake not to submit a video of any dog suffering from a visible condition which adversely affects its health or welfare."**
    - **"I/we further declare that I/we believe that to the best of my knowledge that dogs are not liable to disqualification."**
    - **"I/we agree to my video submission to this event being shared with RKC Rally Judges to assist in providing training for Judges in our sport."**

- **“I am competing with my dog wearing only suitable equipment ie. Flat collar & lead.”**
- **“I am competing with my hands empty of rewards, unless specifically designated in special Class rules”.**
- **“Dogs entered in breach of Regulations are liable to disqualification whether or not the owner was aware of the breach”**

VERIFICATION OF ENTRIES

25. **After handlers complete the entry form & pay the entry fee, prior to accepting the entry - a member of the ROL admin team will review the video to confirm whether the quality is sufficient to pass verification and be accepted into the competition. Once ACCEPTED into the competition the entry will be published on the class lists on the ROL website. *It is handlers responsibility to check and confirm that their entry appears on the class lists.* If the video fails the verification standard, the Chief Steward will refuse the entry, notifying the handler via email.**

VERIFICATION STANDARDS -

26. Links to video entries must be submitted as YouTube links – **NOT “youtube shorts” or any other format videos – these will fail verification.**
27. Trimming a video before /after the round to avoid the judge having to watch extra video time is the ONLY editing allowed. Any other video or digital editing of the round is not allowed and will fail verification.
28. **Handlers AND dogs must remain in view at all times during the video. Teams going out of view within the round will fail verification. Teams going out of view for less than 2 seconds before start or moving between finish and bonus – may incur a Judge and /or Chief Rally Steward’s discretionary deduction of up to 5 points.**
29. Equipment – dogs must compete in a buckle or snap collar. Collars may have tags on them. Decorations &/or costumes, harnesses, slip leads, headcollars, check /half check and /or illuminated collars are not allowed. A medicated collar (e.g. parasite prevention) may also be worn in the video. Failure to use only appropriate equipment is a verification failure.
30. **Filming the round from greater than 1.5m away from designated point on course plan is a verification failure. *Only exception – and at Organisers discretion is for handlers filming solo with a tripod where the camera position may be moved straight back away from the ring to enable the whole round to be in view.**
31. Videos must be submitted in Landscape format – anything else is a verification fail.

ID PROCESS

32. **ALL VIDEOS MUST Start and END with the dog on lead and linked to the handler – unless specifically stated otherwise for that class (e.g. Some special classes only) . * *bonus tiebreak videos excluded*.**
33. **All handlers must show an "empty hand flash" to camera before starting their round.**
34. **All videos must clearly show the Team's ROL Ring Number – PLUS have the teams identity confirmed by at least one other means - audibly OR visually in the video title.**
35. **Verification Failure – The Chief Rally Steward will email the address provided on the submitted entry form. Entries received in the first 11 days that entries are open will be offered one free resubmission to the same class, provided that the replacement video is received before entries close. Entries received in the final 3 days that entries are open will not be offered a chance to resubmit.**
36. **Rounds that have failed verification may be included on the judges lists for some feedback at the Organisers discretion. These rounds will be awarded an NQ score prior to judging.**

Other Video Rally rules

37. Repeated attempts to flout these rules will be considered to be bringing video Rally into disrepute & will result in banning from future ROL competitions.
38. Judges may only judge up to 34 rounds per day. Classes exceeding this number of entries will be split into parts. All parts will compete on the same course.
39. Judges will undertake to watch each round once, replicating how judging happens at live events.
40. **In addition to normal RKC marking - Additional Judge and /or Chief Rally Steward's discretionary deduction of up to 5 points for - significant course laying errors, camera positioning errors, ID process errors, and any other video infringements deemed appropriate.**
41. Judges are eligible to enter classes (or class part) other than that which they are judging.
42. In submitted videos, prior to working the round handlers must not walk across the course to get to the start. If there is a specific route between finish to bonus – this will be detailed on the course plan.
43. Jump exercises – the judge determines whether the equipment for the exercise is a jump OR a hoop. The choice of equipment is never at the handlers discretion.
44. Places 1st – 6th will be determined by points, if tied on points – a separate "Tiebreaker" bonus exercise will be marked by Judge or Chief Steward. Handlers choose to send aseparate video of the tiebreak bonus for their class, or forfeit the place. THIS APPLIES ONLY TO PLACINGS.

45. Bonus Tiebreak exercises are provided on the RallyOnline Group Website – with specific camera positions for each event.
46. Each Bonus Tiebreak video may only be used once.
47. **Teams may enter up to two video level classes (1 to 6plus) – the lowest they are eligible for & the next one up, PLUS teams may enter video Veteran Dog class (if eligible re dogs date of birth), PLUS teams may enter as many Special Classes that they wish & are eligible for (*Puppy/Newcomers is the only Special Class with entry restrictions).**
48. **To avoid undue influence for judging videos of rounds entered must not be shared anywhere else prior to completion of judging and results are published.**

SPECIAL CLASSES –

- **Special Reward Class**

- Teams work OFF lead (no requirement for leads to be visible in your video entry).
- Full details will be provided as part of the course plan when entries open…
- Rally exercises may be taken from any level.
- Ring numbers must be visible at some point.
- Each class will be themed depending on the time of year - decorations of handler, course and venue welcome, no dressing up of dogs!
- Open to all teams working any level – results may be split re eligibility of entrants.

- **Special Puppy /Newcomers Class**

- Open to puppies 4 - 15mths of age (at judging date) and/or any team who haven't gained a ROL video level title (any level). Dogs must also not have earned any live show Rally level titles.
- There will be a large reward zone and teams will need to show they are breaking off to reward their dogs as indicated on the course plan….. rewards may be food & /or toys – the only stipulation is no food/toys visible or in the handlers hands while working the rally exercises. Rewards may be left within the reward area, or carried hidden on the handler.
- Food &/or Touch rewards are permitted after completion of ANY exercise ending in a static position – in situ.
- On or Off Lead – handler choice. Additional 5 points for working off lead.
- Ring number must be visible in video at some point.
- Full details will be published on the course plan. Class may /may not include a bonus exercise.

- Places will be determined by points, if tied on points – Judge will grade reward use to determine.rankings. No tiebreak videos.

- **Additional Special Classes**

- The course will consist of Rally exercises, full details provided on the course plan.
- Sign layout and handler positioning – details are always important.
- Rally exercises marked to normal rules & standards. Special Classes are designed to be FUN class – for the dogs, handlers, judges, and admin team!
- Open to all teams working any level – results may be split re eligibility of entrants.
- Judges may decide to specify on/off lead working, may choose whether to include bonus exercises (as bonus or within round).

RALLY ONLINE VIDEO LEVELS, TITLES & CLASS ELIGIBILITY

1. **Video Rally Levels**

Rally handler/dog teams compete in their lowest eligible class from Level 1 to Level 6plus. They may also compete at the subsequent level. Progression to the next Level does not require either wins or places. Progression is dependent upon gaining three Excellent scores, under three different judges, or six qualifying scores under four different judges. Levels 1 – 4 have a qualifying score of 175 out of 200. Levels 5 & 6 have a qualifying score of 180 out of 200.

In all levels a qualifying score of 190 or above equates to an excellent score.

2. **Eligibility**

A dog can be entered in special class(es) only. A dog must not compete in the same class more than once, including special classes. Special classes do not count for progression.

Video Rally Level 1 –
Open to dogs which have not achieved a vRLevel 1 or vRLevel 1 Excellent Title.

Video Rally Level 2 –
Open to all dogs which have achieved a vRLevel 1 or vRLevel 1 Excellent Title, except those that have achieved a vRLevel 2 or vRLevel 2 Excellent Title. Dogs eligible for and entered at vRLevel 1 may also enter at this vRLevel.

Video Rally Level 3 –
Open to all dogs which have achieved a vRLevel 2 or vRLevel 2 Excellent Title, except those that have achieved a vRLevel 3 or vRLevel 3 Excellent Title. Dogs eligible for and entered vRLevel 2 may also enter at this vRLevel.

Video Rally Level 4 –
Open to all dogs which have achieved vR Level 3 or vR Level 3 Excellent Title, except those that have achieved avR Level 4 or vRLevel 4 Excellent Title. Dogs eligible for and entered at vRLevel 3 may also enter at this Level.

Video Rally Level 5 –
Open to all dogs which have achieved vR Level 4 or vRLevel 4 Excellent Title, except those that have achieved avR Level 5 or vRLevel 5 Excellent Title. Dogs eligible for and entered at vRLevel 4 may also enter at this Level.

Video Rally Level 6 –
Open to all dogs which have achieved a vRLevel 5 or vRLevel 5 Excellent Title. Dogs eligible for and entered at vRLevel 5 may also enter at this Level.

Video Rally Level 6 plus –

Open to all dogs who have achieved a vRLevel 5 title or vRLevel 5 Excellent Title.

Exercises will consist of KC Rally exercises. The course design rules stipulating (a) even spacing and 2m between stations and (b) all ratios of exercises & statics will be relaxed. The criteria for following signs “Slow Pace” (no 15) and “Fast Pace” (no 16) by normal pace also relaxed. Linked signs do not have to include static elements. Maximum number of signs is increased to 25. Signs may be reused within the course. Limit of jump exercises relaxed.

Veteran Dog Class

Veteran Dog classes are open to dogs who have celebrated their 7th birthdays on or prior to the relevant judging date.

Exercises and bonus exercise may be taken from any level 1-6. Courses will consist of 10 - 15 exercises incorporating 2 – 8 static positions. The round must not contain more than two down positions.

No exercise set of linked exercises should require more than three changes of position. (For linked exercises, the judge may assume that all competitors will choose to perform the linked static position only once). There should be no more than two cone/distraction exercises in total. There should be no more than one backup/heelwork exercise – including the bonus.

There should be no more than one jump exercise – with the exception that if a HOOP is used for one or more exercises, then in line with level classes, up to two jump exercises may be used. IF a jump exercise is used the jump height is to be reduced by 10cm for every dog Dogs jumping the lowest height will have the pole laid on the ground.

All teams compete off lead. Marking to normal standards.

3. Video Rally Excellent Titles

(Only the highest vRLevel Ex title achieved should be used after the dog's name. The title is designated as 'vRLex1', 'vRL ex2', 'vRLex3', 'vRLex4', 'vRLex5', 'vRLex6', or 'vRL6+ex' and appears after the dog's name).

vR Level 1 Ex Title Requires three qualifying scores of 190 or better, each earned under a different judge at Level 1.
vR Level 2 Ex Title Requires three qualifying scores of 190 or better, each earned under a different judge at Level 2.
vR Level 3 Ex Title Requires three qualifying scores of 190 or better, each earned under a different judge at Level 3.
vR Level 4 Ex Title Requires three qualifying scores of 190 or better, each earned under a different judge at Level 4.
vR Level 5 Ex Title Requires three qualifying scores of 190 or better, each earned under a different judge at Level 5.
vR Level 6 Ex Title Requires three qualifying scores of 190 or better, each earned under a different judge at Level 6.
vR Level 6plus Ex Title Requires three qualifying scores of 190 or better, each earned under a different judge at Level 6plus.

Veteran Dog Video Rally Titles "vRLV" and "vRLVex "

A video veteran Dog Title can be earned by (a) six qualifying scores of 175 – 189 or better under at least 4 different judges, or (b) three qualifying excellent scores of 190 or above under three different judges in video Rally veteran dog classes.

Other Video Rally Titles

VRM-Ex = Video Rally Masters Excellent earnt by achieving 4200 pts *full details on ROL website* level restrictions apply
VRUM-Ex =Video Rally Ultimate Masters Excellent earnt by EITHER achieving VRM-Ex title plus 3000 pts OR achieving 9000 pts overall in standard video rally classes (any class NOT a special!)
VRVEL- Ex = Video Rally Veteran Elite Level Excellent earnt by achieving 10 x Ex scores in video Rally Veteran Dog classes.

www.RallyOnline.org

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