



RALLY – SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS from Previous Kennel Club Working Party Meetings

	Subject	Recommended	Action
1.	Regulation amendments	<p>The Board, at its meeting held on 8 May 2024, approved the recommended amendments to the S regulations. Explanation of the amendments for 2025 can be found here: Changes to Rally regulations 2025 The Kennel Club</p>	Competitors, judges and competition organisers to note
2.	Renumbering of Bonus Exercises	<p><u>Removal of Bonus Exercises 9 and 14</u> Following the retirement of the below mat exercises, please note that the bonus exercises have been renumbered.</p> <p>Bonus Exercise 9 TO: SEND TO MAT: The handlers mat is placed into position by the judge or steward after the dog has passed the Finish sign, the handler should distract the dog whilst this is happening. Once the mar is in position the hander and dog team move towards the Bonus Sign and heel past it towards the Send To Mat sign where they stop with the dog sitting at the handler's side. The handler sends the dog forward to the mat which is 1.5-2 metres directly in front of them. When the dog reaches the mat, the handler can command the dog to sit or down. Once the dog is settled on the mat the handler walks toward the dog which remains in position until the handler reaches the dog's side, they do not need to walk past the dog first. The exercise is hen complete. The handler's mat should be between 30-75cm wide and 35-100cm long. NB: A portion of the dog's body needs to be on the mat, it is not necessary for the dog to be centred on the mat. (Deletion struck through) (Effective 1 January 2025)</p> <p>Bonus Exercise 14 TO:- DIRECTED SEND TO MAT: The handler's mat is placed into position by the judge or steward after the dog has passed the finish sign, the handler should distract their dog whilst this is happening. Once the mat is in position the handler and dog team move towards the Bonus Sign and heel past it towards the Directed Send to Mat sign, which will be 2 metres in front and to their left. When they are approximately level with the sign they perform an about turn before stopping with the dog sitting at the handler's</p>	



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		<p>side. The handler leaves the dog and walks back to the Bonus Start sign where they turn and direct the dog to go right to the mat which is approximately 1.5-2 metres to the dog's left hand side. When the dog reaches the mat the handler can command the dog to sit or down. Once the dog is settled on the mat the handler walks toward the dog which remains in position until the handler reaches the dog's side, they do not need to walk past the dog first. The exercise is then complete. – The handler's mat should be between 30-75cm wide and 35-100cm long. – NB: A portion of the dog's body needs to be on the mat, it is not necessary for the dog to be centred on the mat. – (Deletion struck through) (Effective 1 January 2025)</p>	
3.	Use of Exercise Modification Request (EMR) Forms	<p>The Working Party had received feedback from the Rally community to find out what might be useful information to include on the EMR form and how it may be made easier to use. The EMR forms were still in progress but it was hoped that a downloadable EMR form would be made available from the Kennel Club website once it had been completed.</p> <p>The Working Party also wished to remind competitors that where they were unable to complete an exercise in a conventional manner, the EMR form should state the way in which the exercise would be completed so that the judge may mark accordingly.</p>	All to note
4.	Rally Review	<p>The Working Party established an aim to achieve championship status for rally in order to retain competitors and skills. It aimed for the championship framework to be robust and sustainable and was looking at establishing it within 10-15 years.</p> <p>The Working Party noted that a number of 'have a go' rally competitions were being held alongside breed club shows, which was helping raise the profile of Kennel Club rally. It was hoped that more shows would hold 'have a go' rally to encourage new competitors.</p> <p>It was noted that the Rally Record Books need updating in line with any changes. The updates had been made to bring the Rally Record Books in line with the 2025 regulations, however this had been agreed to be done as a whole once all of the new framework had been finalised.</p>	All to note



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		The Working Party noted the Rally Review survey responses shared across the Rally Community. The survey was open for 1 calendar month, from 2 August 2024 to 2 September 2024, and gained an impressive 230 responses. Positive feedback had been received and new ideas for consideration had been suggested through the survey.	
5.	Publication of Results	The Working Party wished to recommend that societies should publish competition results on their own website or elsewhere to ensure there is access to the results.	Competition Organisers to note
6.	Scribe Sheets	The Working Party discussed and advised that each competition organiser should publish their scribe sheet access protocol prior to the event, alongside and in the same place as their class lists. This would ensure that organisers, judges, competitors and helpers on the day knew what to expect at the event. It would also ensure that organisers could make arrangements to suit their individual competition environment.	Judges and Competition Organisers to note
7.	Training Rounds	<p>The Working Party wished to clarify that training rounds are not permitted at rally competitions. However, a competitor may withdraw at any point, and may then, with the permission of the judge, continue with the round. It is not acceptable to start the round intending to carry out a training round.</p> <p>The Working Party discussed training rounds and rewarding in the ring at their meeting on 18 February 2025, however the practicalities made the idea difficult to incorporate at the time. Therefore the Working Party wished to encourage the show societies to consider running more special reward classes and practise competitions to help new handlers build confidence.</p>	Competitors and Judges to note
8.	Review of regulations, including signs	The Working Party formed a small working group to start a review on the existing sign set, the progressive nature of classes and the introduction of additional classes.	All to note
9.	Videos of exercises	<p>The Working Party had completed a pilot of videos of exercises demonstrating new exercises and course design changes. The Level 1 videos had been uploaded to YouTube and a short survey undertaken. The feedback was very positive and new footage of how to perform the various signs will be added at regular intervals.</p> <p>These example videos can be found here: Rally Resources - YouTube</p>	All to note



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10.	Guidance regarding reactive and anxious dogs	The Working Party noted the reactive and anxious dogs guidance that had been issued by the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group. The guidance can be found here: Management dogs at Kennel Club events The Kennel Club	All to note
11.	Breaches of Regulations	<p>The Working Party wished to remind judges' that where there was a choice for competitors in the course design that they should not be forcing a decision on the competitors through their sign placement. It was confirmed that this was a breach of regulations and it was encouraged to report incidents such as this through the incident book.</p> <p>The Working Party also discussed out-of-control dogs at Rally shows and requested that all be reminded of the guidance regarding conduct issues at KC licenced events: yellow-red-card-society-club-comms-jan-2024.pdf</p>	All to note
12.	Displaying show licences	The removal of the requirement for societies to have licenses on display at competitions for Rally had been approved and was effective from 1 July 2024. An electronic version of the licence was provided and should be produced on request.	
13.	Next meeting	The Working Party's next meeting will take place on 24 July 2025. Any agenda items must be submitted three weeks prior to the meeting date i.e. by 3 July 2025. Late submissions will not be included.	All to note