



# Cyber Rally-O Rules and Guidelines

## Dance Division

as of October 1, 2016

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## **General Information**

Welcome to Cyber Rally-O Dance Division! Freestyle skills such as transitions, positions, tricks, choreography, and ring use are presented in a structured format building from elementary to advanced. Have fun moving to music with your team mate without the complexity of preparing your own routines from scratch. You can do this without travel and without taking your dog into a competition environment. Shy or reactive dogs and handlers with ring nerves can show in a relaxed, comfortable area of their own choosing.

*ALL* teams are welcome to enjoy this experience. Dogs and/or handlers with physical challenges will find CRO Dance Division to be flexible and accommodating.

All forms and documents you will need are posted on the CRO website ([www.cyberrally-o.com](http://www.cyberrally-o.com)).

Join the Facebook group and/or the Yahoo group. Search in either place for Cyber Rally-O.

## **How to Register**

Dogs must be registered to participate. Complete the Registration Form and follow the instructions on the form.

Your registration will be processed and your number assigned by e-mail within a week. Each dog needs a separate registration number. Registrations are permanent and do not require renewal. A single registration is good for all CRO Divisions.

The cost of registration is \$15 for each dog. (NOTE: Dogs registered with All Dogs Parkour can register with CRO without charge. Dogs who register with CRO may register with All Dogs Parkour without charge.)

## How to Send an Entry

Work at your own pace on the dances you choose. After you have videoed a good run, upload your clip to YouTube and dub in music from YouTube (see “Music Rights” below).

Complete an Entry Form for each dog. If you are doing multiple entries for the same dog, you can indicate the number of entries on a single Entry Form. Make payment by PayPal at [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com).

NOTE: for multiple entries, send a single PayPal payment with the total discounted amount of entry fees for all dogs/entries.

Entry fees are \$20 for one run, \$35 for two runs submitted at the same time, and \$45 for three runs submitted at the same time. Retries for an NQd run are \$10, provided the retry is submitted within 30 days of the NQ email.

Here are the multiple entry discount rules:

- Multiple entries for one dog must be at the level(s) for which the dog is qualified. For example, the dog has a Bronze title and enters a Pre-Silver dance plus a Preliminary Free Dance. You may not enter a Pre-Silver dance and a Silver dance because the dog is not eligible for the Silver level until attaining the Pre-Silver title.
- You may mix rally and dance entries for the same dog and get the discount.
- Multiple entries for dogs registered to the same handler are permitted but each dog's entries must be at the level(s) for which the dog is qualified.
- If you are submitting more than 3 runs at the same time, each additional entry is \$15.

Send an email with the entry form as an attachment to [entries@cyberrally-o.com](mailto:entries@cyberrally-o.com). In the e-mail, include the YouTube or Vimeo link(s) to the video clip(s) of the following:

1. Dog's equipment (on or off the dog)
2. Ring with markers (see “Ring Setup” below)
3. Team performing the dance pattern.

Entries are acknowledged by e-mail within a week. Results are emailed within two weeks.

## **Dance Division – Fixed Pattern Dances**

There are seven levels of Fixed Pattern Dances (Preliminary, Pre-Bronze, Bronze, Pre-Silver, Silver, Pre-Gold, and Gold). Each team must start with the Preliminary level.

The requirement to enter any level (except Preliminary) is to have earned a title at each of the previous levels.

Dance patterns are posted on the CRO website ([www.cyberrally-o.com](http://www.cyberrally-o.com)). Unless the dog has two titles in other recognized freestyle venues, qualifying runs for all three dances in a level are required for the title. The dances in each level may be completed in any order.

Dogs with two or more titles in other recognized freestyle venues need only one qualifying entry for the D-CRO-Preliminary title and two qualifying entries for the D-CRO-PreBr title. Handlers may choose which dances to submit for entry. Recognized freestyle venues include (but are not limited to) Dogs Can Dance Challenge, MDSA, Rally FrEe (freestyle division), and WCFO. Dogs obtaining their titles with fewer than all three dances at any level are not eligible for the "With Honors" title. Teams may later submit the additional dance entries if they want to try for the With Honors title. (See **Qualifying** under the **Judging and Qualifying/NQ** section below.)

## **Dance Division – Free Dances**

Upon completing a Fixed Pattern Dance title at any level, the team may work towards a Free Dance title at that level. For example, a team earning the Fixed Pattern Dance Preliminary title is eligible to work towards a Free Dance Preliminary title. A Free Dance entry will consist of a fixed pattern dance created by the team using movements from the Fixed Pattern Dances at that level. Teams may include up to five additional movements provided the movements are appropriate for the skills of that level. The dance pattern will be repeated at least twice and will be designed

so teams working at that level could replicate the dance. For each entry, handlers must submit a written diagram of the free dance floor pattern and a list of the movements in the order in which they appear in the dance. Free Dance entries shall be a minimum of 90 seconds in length at the Preliminary through Bronze levels and a minimum of two minutes in length at all other levels.

Two Free Dance qualifying entries are needed to earn a Free Dance title at any level.

Free Dance titles are optional at all levels. Teams may work towards Free Dance titles at any level for which the team is eligible and may move down to a lower level to work towards a Free Dance title even after completing a higher level Free Dance title. For example, a team may obtain a Silver Free Dance title after completing the Silver Fixed Dance Title and subsequently earn a Bronze Free Dance title.

Free Dance entries may include the use of props, including toys. Whether or not the dog is motivated by the props or toys is not a factor in qualifying. However, handlers may not lure the dog with the toy or prop throughout the routine. It is permissible for the dog to follow a prop or toy as part of a movement sequence that is part of the Free Dance, and the dog may always interact with props, including toys. The dog's interaction shall not interfere with the aesthetics of the presentation.

## **Music Rights**

Music accompaniments for all entries must be from royalty-free music dubbed in on YouTube, music for which the entrant owns a license, or music which is permitted to be used under a Creative Commons license. Teams may practice the dances and may video to any music they choose, but once the entry is uploaded to YouTube, new music must be dubbed in unless the handler owns rights to the music on the entry clip. Dubbing is very easy and YouTube has a very large selection of music from which to choose (See Music Q&A 2 below).

Even if a dance is termed a “waltz” or “tango” or other genre, teams may use a different music genre as an accompaniment. Neither dog nor handler needs to move to the beat of the music, so handlers may choose whatever music they feel suits their performance.

The dubbed music should be at least as long as the video clip of the dance. A team will not NQ if the music is 10 or fewer seconds shorter.

## Dance Titles

Except for teams having two titles in another recognized freestyle organization (see Dance Division - Fixed Pattern Dances above), a qualifying run for each dance at a particular level is required for each Fixed Pattern Dance Division title. There are three dances in each level. Teams may continue working at a level to earn a "Free Dance" title at that level by creating two fixed pattern dances using movements found in the dances at that level (See "Dance Division – Free Dances" above).

Dance Division titles for the seven Fixed Pattern Dance levels are as follows:

Preliminary	D-CRO-Preliminary
Pre-Bronze	D-CRO-PreBr
Bronze	D-CRO-Br
Pre-Silver	D-CRO-PreSi
Silver	D-CRO-Si
Pre-Gold	D-CRO-PreGo
Gold	D-CRO-Go

Completion of all Fixed Pattern levels earns the  
Championship title: D-CRO-CH.

Free Dance titles are these:

Preliminary	FD-CRO-Preliminary
Pre-Bronze	FD-CRO-PreBr
Bronze	FD-CRO-Br
Pre-Silver	FD-CRO-PreSi
Silver	FD-CRO-Si
Pre-Gold	FD-CRO-PreGo
Gold	FD-CRO-Go

Completion of all Free Dance levels earns the  
Championship and Grand Championship titles:  
FD-CRO-CH and D-CRO-GrCH

## Certificates, Ribbons, and Medals

A certificate will be awarded for all new titles. Certificates will be e-mailed. Optional Q ribbons and medals are available for the Fixed Pattern titles only. A Q ribbon for the team's first Q at each Fixed Pattern level is available at no charge. Check the option on the entry form. Title medal requests and payments are made on the title entry form. Medals will be mailed when the team is awarded the title Q (even if on a retry). Additional Q ribbons are \$1.00 each and are sent with the title medal.

The Free Dance championship title (FD-CRO-CH) is also a Grand Champion title (D-CRO-GrCH); the dual title rosette is optional. **The dual title Grand Champion rosettes are FREE and will be mailed anywhere in the world with no surcharge.**

## Judging and Qualifying/NQ

**Qualifying: Each entry will be reviewed by three judges, and the decision of the majority of the judges will determine whether or not the entry qualifies. Entries will receive either a Q (qualifying run) or NQ (non-qualifying run). For a qualifying dance run, the team must complete the entire dance pattern correctly, without food/toy luring. Except as indicated in the dance pattern diagrams, dogs must be in Heel/Side/Front position (as required by each dance) during the performance.**

**Teams must demonstrate 80% accuracy of moves and pattern, 75% accuracy of position, and 80% competence in each of the three areas of the artistry requirements as defined below (see "Artistry" below). Each criterion is judged separately based on each judge's overall impression of that aspect rather than counting moves or portions of a pattern to determine whether the percent of mastery in that criterion is achieved.**

**Teams qualifying for a pattern with at least a 90% score in each criterion from at least two judges will receive a Q With Honors (WH) for that pattern. Teams receiving Qs With Honors for all three patterns at a level will receive their title With Honors (WH). Teams titling with one or two Qs in Preliminary and/or Pre-Bronze may submit the additional entries and try for the With Honors title.**

**NOTE: Judging guidelines for stationary Heel/Side/Front positions and for side passes are based on a clock model. For the ideal Front position, the handler stands at the 6 facing the center of the clock. The dog is at the center of the clock facing the handler with head pointing to the 6 and tail pointing to the 12. In the Bronze through Gold levels it is acceptable if the tail is pointing between the 10 and the 2. In the Preliminary and Pre-Bronze levels the dog's tail can be pointing between but not beyond the 9 and the 3. There are no side passes in the Preliminary and Pre-Bronze levels.**

**In ideal Heel/Side position, the dog stands in the center of the clock facing the 12 and the tail is pointing to the 6 (the handler stands beside the dog). If the tail is angled toward the 8 or the 4, that is acceptable in all levels. More leeway is permitted in the Preliminary and Pre-Bronze levels (tail pointing between the 9 or the 3).**

**These are general guidelines defining the outer limits of what is an acceptable stationary or side pass position. Depending on the quality of the other elements of the run, if most positions are performed at the outer limits the run may not qualify. It is hard to see perfectly in video and the angles are sometimes distorted. Judges take into account these guidelines on positions and also take into account the quality of the other elements of the run as well as video limitations.**

**For moving positions, the team must strive for consistency throughout the dance. There is no particular requirement for distance between the team in any position but the dog should be lined up with the center of the handler in Front position and should maintain a consistent position relative to the handler when moving in Heel or Side positions, for example.**

**Multiple Cues and Hand Cues:** Multiple cues are permitted provided they do not interfere with the aesthetics of the performance. Hand cues are permitted at all levels provided they are presented in an artistic manner.

**Artistry:** Teams are required to demonstrate artistry in order to qualify in a run at any level. Artistry, as required in the Cyber Rally-O Dance Division, includes three aspects: continuity, consistency, and connection. Each team must demonstrate continuity in the run, consistency of style/pace, and connection between team members. Teams are judged separately on each of the three components and must meet the 80% standard of competence for each component.

More detailed information describing each component and how each one is judged can be found in the Q&A section of these Guidelines (see the Artistry section, Q1).

**Music Selection:** Neither dog or handler needs to move to the beat of the music. Handlers must use dubbed in YouTube royalty-free music or music for which they hold a license or which is permitted to be used under a Creative Commons license. (See “Music Rights”, above). Music selection in no way affects the judging of a run. Handlers may choose whatever music they feel enhances their entry, whether or not it is of the genre of the dance. For example, the handler may choose country music, rock, or a tango to accompany their foxtrot entry.

**Physically Challenged Dogs/Handlers:** For all physical challenges (dogs or handlers), please send an e-mail with suggestions for modifications prior to videoing the entry. It is the policy of CRO to attempt to accommodate all working teams with physical challenges.

**Start and Finish Signal:** Please signal the start and finish of the dance by raising a hand overhead as you begin and end the dance. This allows the judge to mark the start and finish of the run easily when viewing the video.

**Food Rewards:** Handlers may have food rewards (no toys except in the Free Dances) in their pockets. No bait bags are to be worn and food is not to be carried in the handlers’ hands or mouths. **Handlers may reward their teammates with food after completion of any dance move or sequence ending with dog or handler stationary (such as Stay, H Circles D, D Circles H.). No rewards are to be given while the team is in motion, in the middle of a transition or other sequence, or immediately after dance moves such as circles or 270s. It is permissible to stop between dance move sequences (team has left the prior station and not yet reached the next station) to deliver a food reward.** Reinforcing with food should not be done in a manner that detracts from the aesthetics of the performance. This means coming to a complete stop (both team members), remaining in position during the stop (both team members), deliberately feeding, and moving on. Minor foot movements by the dog while in position are acceptable. If the dog sits while in position, that is not an NQ. The dog should not become overly aroused by the food, and the food should not be

**tossed to the dog. If the food is dropped, the handler should leave it and not interrupt the flow by picking it up. If the dog moves out of position or goes for the food, start the run over.**

**Petting/Praising:** Handlers may pet their dogs at any place where a food reward is permitted (see “Food Rewards” above). Petting should not be done in a manner that detracts from the aesthetics of the performance (see “Food Rewards” above). Praising is encouraged throughout the performance, whether the team is stationary or moving.

**NQs:** Non-qualifying runs will be those in which any of the following occurs:

1. Tight leash (only one minor infraction of this is allowed per run). If you get a tight leash twice, start the run again. If you are not sure, save the \$10 retry fee and start the run again!
2. Dog or handler intentionally leaves the ring (four paws out for the dog or both feet out for the handler)
3. Any harsh treatment of the dog
4. Dog biting handler or handler’s clothes (or handler biting dog 😊)
5. Failing to do identical or mirror sequences/moves where required
6. Dog stops working for 10 seconds or more
7. Peeing or pooping in the ring
8. Dog appears to be in pain or too stressed to work comfortably
9. Luring the dog with treats or toys at any time during the run (see Free Dance exception in “Dance Division - Free Dances” above) or continually begging the dog to perform
10. Using the wrong size ring or failing to mark the ring corners and sides as required (see “Ring Setup” below).
11. Failing to follow Video Requirements or Equipment rules (below).

**If the entry is an NQ, the team will have 30 days from the date of the e-mailed result to submit another video of the same or a different dance at the same level. The cost of the re-submission is \$10.00.**

## **Dog Equipment**

**Leashes are optional at all levels.** Please consider this option if working in unfenced areas with reactive dogs. Leashes may be any length and may be dropped, shortened, or removed for distance moves, weaves,

etc. Leash handling should not interfere with the aesthetics of the performance.

The dog may wear a flat buckle collar, snap collar, properly fitted martingale collar, no collar, body harness (front or rear clip is fine, provided the front clip harness does not restrict the dog's natural gait), and/or a service vest. Tags on collars/harnesses are permissible.

The dog may not wear an e-collar, pinch/prong collar, head halter, or slip (“choke”) collar whether chain or otherwise.

Dogs may not wear anything on their legs or feet as a costume. Booties are permitted if worn for the dog's comfort.

The dog may wear a bandana (some dogs are not easily visible on videos depending on color and background), a service or other vest, a coat for warmth or cooling, a Thundershirt, and/or a TTouch wrap. If you have equipment questions, please send an e-mail prior to videoing your run as some other comfort equipment may be permitted.

## Ring Setup

The ring must be rectangular and the size must be approximately 30 feet by 40 feet. The ring must be marked with 8 cones, flags, or other visible markers. One marker will be at each corner and one will mark the middle of each side of the ring. The marker placement is shown on all dance diagrams. Ring markers **must** be visible on the video so judges can orient the floor pattern to the ring. Markers need not be identical.

## Video Requirements and Tips (Requirements are in bold)

**1. The video clip must show approximately 50%-100% of the ring at all times so the floor pattern can be seen in relationship to the ring markers. Both dog and handler must be visible at all times. For extreme distance work, keep the camera on the dog if the entire ring is not visible.**

**2. Links to the following three video clips must be submitted on the entry e-mail. Clips may be separate or joined. If joined, please put in this order (but you will not NQ if you mix them up):**

- a. Video of the dog's equipment (on or off the dog).
- b. Video of the ring with the ring markers.
- c. Video of the team performing the dance.

3. The video of the team performing the dance may not be edited in any way (other than dubbing in the music).

4. The videographer should not zoom but may pan. It is preferable to have the entire ring in view at all times.

5. Place the camera on a tripod or other stationary object for a good, viewable result.

6. If you are self-recording, make sure the entire ring is visible and is not too small on the screen to be viewed easily for judging. A 30' x 40' ring is the right size for this to be possible.

7. Outdoors in the sun, it is best to have the sun at the camera's back. Alternatively, shade the camera with an umbrella.

8. Please review your clips before entering them. If the images are not large enough or are not clear, they can not be viewed for judging.

Thank you for participating in Cyber Rally-O!



## About the Dance Diagrams

There is a diagram for each dance. Abbreviations used on the diagrams are as follows:

H = Handler

D = Dog

L = Left

R = Right

d = degrees

CW = Clockwise

CCW = Counterclockwise

2+ = two or more (moves, as in a sequence used for a transition)

3+ = three or more (moves, as in a sequence used for a transition)

The Preliminary and Pre-Bronze dance diagrams include the abbreviations. Bronze through Gold do not, since the handlers will be familiar with the abbreviations after completing the first two levels.

The dance pattern shown and/or described on the diagram must be followed very accurately on the ring floor. The placement of the ring markers will assist the handler in keeping the team on the path of the pattern.

Handlers should support their dogs through the dance so both team members stay on the pattern and in position.

Some diagrams are on a single page and some are on two pages, one of which has additional explanations and/or instructions.

## Dance Questions and Answers

### General

Q1. May we put out signs for the moves in a pattern?

*Answer: No, you need to memorize the pattern.*

Q2. We videoed our entry, but the transition sequences were not identical on each of the two rounds. Do we need to do it over?

*Answer: Yes! If the dance diagram says the sequences must be identical (or mirror images), then that is a requirement for a Q.*

Q3. Can we mark the pattern on the floor, such as with chalk, for our entry?

*Answer: No! You may practice that way, but the floor is not to be marked when running the pattern for your entry. Use the cones that mark the ring as your guides.*

Q4. Can we keep our left hand on our stomach (formal obedience position) when doing the patterns in Heel position?

*Answer: This would not be an NQ. There are no requirements about hand position. As you go through the levels and as your freestyle work develops you will likely move away from this because you will be working in different positions and will be cuing at times with your left arm. You may also need that arm to balance yourself, especially when you start doing turns yourself.*

### Music

Q1. Can we practice and do our video without music and then add the music once it is on YouTube?

*Answer: Yes, certainly. But you and your team mate will be missing out on the fun of moving to the music.*

Q2. How do we dub music into our clip once it is on YouTube?

*Answer: It is very easy. Go to your channel and click on your clip. Then click on the music note under the video screen. You will see music selections as well as a search box to find different selections. You can search by genre (big band, waltz, tango, etc.) or song name ("Fascination", "Hernando's Hideaway", etc.) or name of the artist (searching for "band" brings up many ballroom style groups). Just click on a song to have it become part of your clip. Click different songs to see how they fit your clip. Be sure to click "Save" when you have decided on a selection. Your music can easily be changed at any time by following this same procedure. For a visual, here is a video showing how to add music to your YouTube video:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwiZYXc1BLE>

## Dance Patterns and Performance

Q1. Where can we reinforce on the Figure 8 Waltz (Preliminary Level)? There is never a place that is between stations.

*Answer: Anywhere on the middle parts of the circles is fine. However, do not reinforce in the center where the two circles meet. Part of the skill of doing that pattern is the transition from one circle to the next.*

Q2. I can't figure out the Come Fore Foxtrot (Pre-Bronze Level). The pattern says to turn, but when we do we are out of the ring.

*Answer: Be sure you are looking at the correct diagram. The Heel and Side patterns start in different places. If you are in Heel position and reading the Side version, it will make no sense.*

Q3. In designing the Free Dances, how do we know what additional movements are "skills of that level"?

*Answer: Generally, refer to the CRO rally exercises. Exercises in Levels I, II, and III are suitable for Preliminary through Bronze Free Dances. Exercises in Levels I through V are suitable for Pre-Silver through Gold Free Dances. This rule is not written in stone! While you may get a judge's comment about using a move that may not be appropriate for your level of Free Dance, you will not NQ. Free Dances are intended to allow you to be creative.*

Q4. If the diagram instructions mention 180R/L, 270R/L, 360r/L, and nothing about whether it is the dog or the handler doing the turn, how do we know what to do?

*Answer: If nothing is specified, the team does the turn together, remaining in Heel or Side position throughout. These are the same turns as are done in rally. If you are not sure about something, you can always e-mail CRO and/or ask on the Yahoo List or Facebook group.*

## Artistry

Q1. Please explain the details of the artistry requirements.

*Answer: The three components of Artistry, for all levels, are Continuity, Consistency, and Connection. Below is all the information given to the judge panel for each entry.*

**Continuity:** *Does the team continue to progress through the pattern without unplanned breaks? "Unplanned breaks" includes such things as the handler getting lost on the pattern, obvious disconnection between dog and handler (such as dog leaves handler to sniff floor), dog very slow to respond, etc. Continuity does not relate to speed. Teams may move at any pace provided they continue to steadily execute the pattern. Continuity is not affected by hesitations on turns or other moves if the team is doing those turns/moves in a consistent manner (see "Consistency" in this section).*

**Consistency:** *Does the team maintain a consistent style in each set of the same moves and a consistent pace? For example, are turns all executed in a similar manner*

*so the team demonstrates similarity of speed, style (very sharp, moderately sharp, or less sharp as may be permitted in rally), and position at the start, during, and end of each turn? Is there symmetry of circle size on spins? (NOTE: Moves that are part of an original combination required to be choreographed may be substantially different from the same moves directed by the pattern itself, and differences shown in original combinations are not penalized.) Is a similar pace maintained throughout the pattern (subject to pace changes dictated by the pattern itself and/or the required moves where dog and/or handler may need to be moving at different speeds)?*

**Connection:** *Are the team members aware of each other throughout the run? Does the team move as a coordinated unit? Does the dog accurately and promptly respond to the handler's cues? Does the handler support and/or accommodate the dog's natural movements? NOTE: Eye contact is not required to demonstrate connection, although it is generally indicative of connection.*

