Cyber Rally-O Rules and Guidelines
Rally Division
as of February 14, 2024

General Information

Welcome to Cyber Rally-O! These Rules and Guidelines pertain to the CRO Rally Division.

Earn rally titles, including championships, in each of five levels of fun and challenging rally-o. You can do this without travel and without taking your dog into a trial 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 Cyber Rally-O to be flexible and accommodating.

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

Join the CRO Facebook Group! (www.facebook.com/groups/CROgroup)

How to Register

Dogs must be registered to participate. Complete the online Registration Form (https://form.jotform.com/smartdogs/cro-registration) and follow the instructions on the form. Multiple dogs may be registered on a single 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.

The cost of registration is $15 for each dog.

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How to Send an Entry

Work at your own pace on the courses you choose. After you have videoed a good run follow these two steps.

STEP 1. Upload a clip of your run to YouTube or Vimeo. Upload a clip or photo of your dog's equipment (on or off your dog).

STEP 2. Complete the online Entry & Payment form [(https://form.jotform.com/smartdogs/cyber-rally-o-entry-form)](https://form.jotform.com/smartdogs/cyber-rally-o-entry-form)

Multiple entries and multiple dogs may be submitted on a single form.

Entry fees are $20 for one run, $35 for two runs submitted at the same time, and $15 each for three or more 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.

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

Multiple Entry Discount Rules

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 Level II title and enters a Level III course plus a Level I course towards a Level I championship title. You may not enter a Level III course and a Level IV course because the dog is not eligible for Level IV until attaining the Level III title.
· You may mix entries for multiple dogs registered to the same handler and get the discount. Each dog's entries must be at the level(s) for which the dog is qualified. Please submit a separate entry form for each dog.
· If you are submitting more than 3 runs at the same time, each additional entry is $15.

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Titling Tracks

There are two rally titling tracks: the Performance Track and the Traditional Track. Teams may enter either or both Tracks but must complete a title at each of the lower levels of the Track in order to enter a higher level of that Track. Earning titles at higher levels of either Track does not preclude the team from entering the lower levels of the other Track.

Level I courses are the same for both Tracks and there is only one Level I title. Courses in Levels II through V are different for each Track.

Performance Titling Track

The Performance Track courses will include all the Cyber Rally-O exercises. The dogs will work on both the left side (Heel) and the right side (Side) of the handler in Levels II through V. Courses will include transition signs which require the dog to switch from Heel to Side position (or Side to Heel position). Teams may choose to enter the same course twice starting one entry in Heel and the other entry in Side.

Traditional Titling Track

The Traditional Track will not include transition signs on any of the courses. In the Traditional Track, teams will start each course in either Heel or Side position (handler's choice) and will complete the course using that position. Teams may choose to do some courses in Heel position and others in Side position (or the same course in both Heel and Side position), but none of the Traditional Track courses will require changing sides during the course.

Levels

There are five levels of courses on each track (I, II, III, IV, and V). Each team must start with Level I. After obtaining a Level I title, the team may move on to Level II (in either or both tracks) and may also continue in Level I to earn a Level I championship title.

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Moving up does not preclude a team from continuing to work towards championship titles at the lower levels.

The requirement to enter any level (except Level I) in either Track is to have earned a title at each of the previous levels in that Track.

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Courses

Two Options for Courses

There are two options for courses. You may use one of the CRO courses or you may design your own course (see Handler-Created Course, below, in this section).

CRO Rally Courses

CRO courses are posted on the CRO website (www.cyberrally-o.com). New courses are added from time to time and are announced on the Cyber Rally-O facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/CROgroup).

Teams may choose from among the courses but may only qualify with a particular course one time per title. There is one exception to this rule. The same course may be started in Heel for one entry and Side for another entry and will count towards the title as two separate courses. (See "One Course, Two Entries Option" 5-1.)

Teams must choose a course designed for the level entered. For example, Level II entries use Level II courses.

About the CRO Rally Courses

Each course has two pages. One page is the course map. The numbers and arrows show the order of the stations, beginning at the Start and ending at the Finish.

The second page is the written material about the course. The course signs are listed next to their stations. Next to the sign name is the Level of the sign and its number in the list of signs for that level. For example, "L1-7/8" is Level I, signs 7 and 8. Those two signs are **180° Right** signs. As a second example, "L2-19" is Level II, sign 19, which is the **Dog 360°** sign.

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IF THERE IS A DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE CRO COURSE MAP AND THE LIST OF EXERCISE STATIONS, THE MAP TAKES PRECEDENCE AND YOU MUST DO YOUR RUN ACCORDING TO THE MAP. PLEASE NOTIFY CRO OF ANY DISCREPANCIES SO THEY CAN BE FIXED. THANKS!

Handler-Created Course (HCC)

You may design courses that fit the space where you plan to do your run. Each course must meet the criteria for the level for which you designed it. The criteria for each level are as follows:

Level I courses must include:
> at least 15 stations
> only Level I exercises
> at least 12 <u>different</u> exercises (not including bonus stations)
> no exercise may be repeated more than once

Level II courses must include:
> at least 15 stations
> only Level I and II exercises
> at least 12 <u>different</u> exercises (not including bonus stations) of which at least 7 are from Level II
> no exercise may be repeated more than once
> Performance Track courses must include at least one Transition exercise.

Level III courses must include:
> at least 16 stations
> only Level I, II, and III exercises
> at least 12 <u>different</u> exercises (not including bonus stations) of which at least 5 are from Level III and at least 4 are from Level II
> no exercise may be repeated more than once
> Performance Track courses must include at least one Transition exercise.

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Level IV courses must include:

at least 17 stations

only Level I, II, III, and IV exercises

at least 14 <u>different</u> exercises (not including bonus stations) of which at least 5 are from Level IV, at least 3 are from Level III, and at least 3 are from Level II

no exercise may be repeated more than once

Performance Track courses must include at least one Transition exercise.

Level V courses must include:

at least 17 stations

exercises from all levels

at least 14 <u>different</u> exercises (not including bonus stations) of which at least 5 are from Level V, at least 3 are from Level IV, at least 2 are from Level III, and at least 2 are from Level II

no exercise may be repeated more than once

Performance Track courses must include at least one Transition exercise.

In addition, on your entry form provide a pdf of the following two lists:

List #1. For each station provide the full and correct name of the exercise as given in the Exercise Description documents on the website, and the exercise level and number. Example, "Station 1. Call Front. Finish Circle. Wait. L1-25".

Indicate which stations, if any, are coupled. You may couple more than two stations. Example, "Stations 4, 5, & 6 are coupled."

List #2. List the <u>different</u> exercises by level so the judge can easily determine if the course meets HCC requirements.

HCCs must be submitted in pdf form as part of your entry. No other formats will be accepted. A course map is NOT required.

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Setting Up the Course

A course may be set up anywhere. The course map indicates the order of the stations and approximate locations relative to the other stations. The course can be spread out or squished down to suit the location and the team. For HCCs, the design should fit the space so the team is comfortable running the course.

Ring and Ring Markers

The ring can be any size suitable to accommodate the course. Please be sure the team has sufficient room to safely and comfortably maneuver the course, especially if there are jumps.

You may mark the corners of the ring with cones, flags, or other visible markers. Failure to do so will not result in an NQ, but an NQ for a dog or handler leaving the ring will be somewhat subjective if the ring is not clearly defined.

Numbering the stations is suggested but is not required.

Signs and Sign Holders

The CRO signs need not be printed in color or full-size and they need not be placed on stands. If the handler wishes, the signs can lay flat on the ground.

Handlers may choose to write directional arrows on their signs or hand-write the signs. Signs from other venues may be used if appropriate for the station and the team performs the correct CRO exercise at that station.

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Cones

Any item that will be easily seen by the judge may be used for cone exercises. You may use a combination of items or use all of the same type of item.

Permitted Jump Equipment

Jumps may be of any material and any upright style (no broad jumps), provided that the bar will fall if the dog hits it. The width must accommodate the dog, but no particular width is required.

Permitted Jump Heights

<u>Dogs may jump at whatever height the handler chooses</u>, but no dog will jump higher than 16 inches. If you wish, for the comfort of the dog, the bar may be laid on the ground and the dog can walk over it. It is also permissible for dogs to walk between the jump standards with no bar (dogs in carts, for example).

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Heel and Side Positions

Teams may begin any course with the dog working on the left side (Heel) or the right side (Side) of the handler. Signs and courses are designed to be bi-lateral.

The team must be consistent in choice of sides for the course the team is running. For example, if a team begins the course in Heel position, the team must complete the course in Heel position (except for transition signs in the Performance Track).

Transition Signs

Transition signs indicate that the dog is to switch sides (from Heel to Side or from Side to Heel) and continue to work on that side until the next transition sign. Unless specified on the sign, the dog or handler can transition with any move or series of moves, including single/multiple leg weaves by the dog. Transitions may include stops by one or both team members.

Transition signs appear in Levels II through Level V in the Performance Track. No transition signs are used in the Traditional Track.

One Course, Two Entries Option
(Heel and Side)

You may run the same course twice starting one time in Heel and one time in Side. Each run can be used as a separate entry and will count towards CRO titles. This option applies to both the Performance Track and the Traditional Track.

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Dog Equipment

Leashes are optional at all levels. Please consider this option if working in unfenced areas. Leashes may be any length and may be dropped, shortened, exchanged, or removed for distance stations, jumps, weaves, etc.

The dog may wear a flat buckle collar, snap collar, properly fitted martingale collar, no collar, body harness (front or rear clip is fine), and/or a service vest. Tags on collars/harnesses are permitted.

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

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 to info@cyberrally-o.com prior to videoing your run as some other comfort equipment may be permitted.

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Physically Challenged Dogs/Handlers

If you or your dog have limited physical mobility, you may request additional time to complete a course.

Dogs in carts and dogs who cannot sit or down comfortably may stand for all Sit/Down exercises. Instead of taking the Sit/Down position, the dog will hold the stand for a few seconds for each change of position. Minor movements by the standing dog, including foot movements, will not be penalized.

If a Fast pace is a problem for you or your dog, you may substitute a Slow.

When submitting your entry there is a space on the Entry & Payment form for describing any physical challenges, substitutions and / or other relevant information in order for special judging rules to apply.

For physical challenges requiring additional accommodations, please send an e-mail to info@cyberrally-o.com with suggestions for modifications prior to videoing the entry. It is the policy of CRO to attempt to accommodate all teams with physical challenges.

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Food Rewards

Handlers may have food rewards (no toys) 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 completing any station ending with dog or handler stationary (such as the Stop. Down or Walk Arounds).

No rewards are to be given while the team is in motion or immediately after moving stations such as cone exercises or moving turns (180s, 270s, etc.). Reaching for a treat while in motion is not permitted and will result in NQ.

It is permissible to stop <u>between</u> stations to deliver a food reward provided it is clear to the judge that the team has <u>left the prior station</u> and <u>not yet reached the next station</u>.

Petting/Praising

Handlers may pet their dogs at any place where a food reward is permitted (see "Food Rewards" above).

Praising is encouraged throughout the course, whether the team is stationary or moving.

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Video Requirements

1. The video clip must follow the team so the dog is visible at all times. For distance work, keep the camera on the dog.

2. Ideally, the handler is visible throughout the run. However, if part of the handler is not in view, it is sufficient that the handler's hands are visible throughout the run.

3. Links to the following one or two video clips must be submitted on the Entry & Payment form. 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 or photo of the dog's equipment (on or off the dog). If the dog is not wearing any equipment, mention that on your entry form.
   b. Video of the team negotiating the course.

4. The video of the team negotiating the course may not be edited in any way other than to adjust lighting and to cut the excess footage prior to the start and after the end of the run.

5. Do not add music to the video or play loud background music during the run. The judge needs to hear the handler cueing the dog throughout the run.

6. The videographer may zoom and/or pan, but the dog and handler must be visible throughout the clip.

7. The video must be viewable. Video in high definition and upload in high definition.

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Video Tips

     1. Place the camera on a tripod or other stationary object for a good, viewable result. This is the case whether or not there is a videographer.

     2. If you are attempting to self-record, make sure all areas of the course are visible and are not too small on the screen to be viewed easily by the judge.

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

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

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Qualifying and Scoring

Qualifying Entries

The team begins each run with a score of 100 points. A Final Score of 70 points or more is required for a qualifying run. The Final Score consists of the team's Basic Score plus bonus points earned during the run.

Basic Score

The first 15 exercises on a course determine the team's Basic Score. If the course has fewer than 15 exercises, those exercises will determine the Basic Score.

For courses with more than 15 exercises, the additional exercises are bonus stations and do not count towards the Basic Score.

Bonus Stations and Bonus Points

Bonus points can be earned on courses that include more than 15 stations. Each correctly performed additional exercise over 15 results in a bonus of two points. Only courses with more than 15 stations offer the opportunity for bonus points.

Bonus points are added to the Basic Score. Skipped or incorrect bonus stations receive no bonus points but do not affect the Basic Score.

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Scoring Deductions

Deductions will be taken for the following occurrences. Judges have discretion as to whether the deduction is warranted but may not vary from the number of deducted points specified. No single exercise can result in a deduction of more than 10 points.

- **TL** (Tight Leash) - **1 point** for each instance of an inadvertent tight leash. Only three deductions are allowed per run. If there is a 4th instance of a TL, the run will NQ regardless of the team's score. Any instance(s) of an intentionally tight leash will result in an NQ.

- **MC** (Moving a Cone while doing a cone exercise) - **2 points per cone**. The team can do the retry to reduce the penalty if two or more cones were moved. Moving or knocking over a cone at any time other than when doing a cone exercise does not affect the team's score in any way.

- **RAS** (Retrying a Station) - **3 points.** If the retry is done properly (see "How to Retry a Station" in Section 14, below), the deduction is 3 points. If the retry is not done properly, the station is an IP. A team cannot lose more than 10 points on any station.

- **OOP** (Out of Position while performing an exercise) - up to **3 points**. For stationary positions and moving positions, an OOP deduction is determined according to the "Judging Stationary Positions" and "Judging Moving Positions" guidelines in Section 13, below.

- **IP** (Incorrect Performance of an exercise) - **10 points**. In addition to doing any elements of the exercise incorrectly, the following bulleted occurrences will result in an IP unless the team retries the station and does the exercise correctly:

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- ◦ dog picking up the target on a send to target exercise
- ◦ dog or handler knocking over a cone during a cone exercise
- ◦ dog knocking a bar while exiting a correctly done jump exercise
- ◦ significant foot movements by handler in Levels III, IV, or V after the dog is in Front position on a "Finish. Wait" exercise. Minor foot movements and foot movements that are apparently for balance will not result in an IP. Foot movements for Single Weave Finishes are expected and will not result in an IP.
- ◦ skipping any of the first 15 exercises on a course

- **STR** (slow to respond) - up to **3 points**. This pertains to a slow response to a cue, not to a slow performance of the behavior.

- **ICS** (Incorrect Cone Setup) - **a single 10 point deduction in Levels I and II; 20 points in Levels III, IV, and V.** Many CRO courses include shared cones and/or cone challenges. To avoid an ICS deduction, the cones must be set up as specified on the course map.

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Time Limit

Judging ends at five minutes. After that time, teams lose
10 points for each uncompleted basic station (Stations 1 through 15) and
receive no points for incomplete bonus stations.

Additional time can be requested for dogs and/or handlers with
physical challenges. The request may be made on your Entry & Payment
Form or you may email entries@cyberrally-o.com

Start and Finish Signal

Please signal the start and finish of the course by raising a hand
overhead as you pass the Start and Finish signs. This allows the judge to
mark the start and finish of the run easily when viewing the video.

If you forget to do this, it will not NQ the run.

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Judging Standards for Positions

Heel/Side/Front Positions Defined

Except for distance stations, jumps, trick stations, and transitions, dogs must be in Heel/Side/Front position (as required by each exercise) during exercise performance. Teams are expected to improve their Heel/Side/Front position accuracy as they move up the levels.

Between stations, dogs should move in proximity to the handler, in either Heel (left side) or Side (right side) position, as required by the course. No deductions are taken for Heel and Side positions when the team is between stations.

For all runs at all levels the dog needs to be in fairly accurate Heel/Side/Front positions to get a qualifying performance of the exercises that include those positions.

Ideally, for Heel and Side positions, the dog's head and/or shoulder area is near the handler's leg (dog and handler are facing the same direction). Ideally, for Front position, the dog's body is lined up with the center of the handler's body (dog and handler are facing each other) with the dog no more than one full body length away from the handler's toes.

Judging Stationary Positions (clock model)

The judging guidelines for stationary Heel, Side, and Front positions are based on a clock model.

Front Position: 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. Deviation from this position will result in an OOP deduction. If the dog's tail is pointing beyond the 9 or the 3, it's an IP for the exercise.

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Heel/Side Position: 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). Deviation from this position will result in an OOP deduction. If the tail is pointing beyond the 9 or the 3, it's an IP for the exercise.

It is hard to see perfectly in video and the angles are sometimes distorted. Judges consider these guidelines on stationary positions and may also take into account the other elements of the run as well as video limitations.

Judging Moving Positions

For moving positions, being out of position for at least 50% of the exercise will result in an OOP deduction of 3 points. Judges may deduct points for lesser OOP instances.

Moving positions with extreme forging, lagging, going wide, or crowding may incur an IP deduction if a significant portion of the exercise is severely compromised. Examples of extremes are the dog being so wide that a person could <u>easily</u> walk between the dog and handler or forging and crowding that <u>significantly</u> impede the team's movement in the direction of travel, or lagging that leaves a space between dog and handler of more than the entire length of the dog.

Persistent lagging, forging, going wide, or crowding will not be penalized if it is slight.

Judges may take into account the Level of the run when deducting points for OOP. At higher levels, the quality of the moving position is expected to be better than at lower levels.

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How to Retry a Station

Each station may be retried one time and will incur a deduction of 3 points. On a retry, only the second performance is scored. No more than 10 points can be deducted for any station, and that includes the retry deduction.

There is a specific way to retry the station. The team must move back a few paces and re-approach the station for the retry. Do not remain at the station and perform the exercise again. That will result in an IP for the station. You must re-approach the station for the retry.

Remember that each station is a single performance of the exercise. Retrying at the station constitutes doing the exercise or parts of it twice, which is an incorrect performance (IP).

Retries at Coupled Stations

When retrying a station that is part of a set of coupled stations you may retry the single station by moving back and re-approaching to retry the single station. Or you may move back and retry the entire set.

Each exercise done a second time will be scored only on the second performance.

There is only one 3 point retry penalty for coupled sets if you retry the entire set. Individually retried stations in a coupled set will each incur a 3 point penalty. For example, retrying the first station and then moving back to also retry the second station.

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Non-Qualifying Runs (NQs)

The following occurrences will cause a run to be an NQ:

1. Dog or handler stops working and intentionally leaves the ring (four paws out for the dog or both feet out for the handler)
2. Any harsh treatment of the dog (including any deliberate pull on the leash)
3. Dog biting handler or handler's clothes
4. Dog stops working for 20 seconds or more
5. Peeing or pooping in the ring
6. Dog appears to be in pain or too stressed to work comfortably
7. Luring the dog (with treats, toys, air cookies, or the appearance of holding a lure) at any time; non-touching open/flat hand targets are fine
8. Continually begging the dog to perform
9. Touching the dog or holding the dog's collar or harness during the run (an instance or two of unintended contact will not NQ a run; petting as permitted by Section 8 will not NQ a run; touching as part of a trick for a CRO Trick exercise will not NQ a run)
10. Using a jump with a top bar that will not fall if the dog hits it (such as an obedience high jump or a fixed jump object like a box or baby gate) or using a jump height of more than 16"
11. The dog picks up the retrieve object, target, or a trick prop during a run other than when performing the retrieve station or the trick. This indicates the dog is out of control and will result in an NQ
12. Seeking or receiving help of any kind during the run (such as asking someone whether to do a retry)
13. Dog intentionally nudges, bumps, or paws handler's hand or pocket appearing to seek treats. One occurrence will be overlooked, the second will result in an NQ
14. Handler reaching for a treat or petting while in motion (See Section 8)
15. Violating any of the rules

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Receiving a score of less than 70 points is also an NQ (see "Qualifying Entries" in Section 10, above).

Resubmitting after an NQ
(Time Limit and Retry Fee)

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 course. The cost of the re-submission is $10.00.

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Rally Titles

CRO offers Regular, Championship, and Grand Championship titles. All teams must start by earning one or more Regular titles.

Level I titles are identical for both Tracks. Titles in Levels II through V are different. Titles in the Traditional Track will be preceded by "T-" (T-CRO-II, for example). Titles in the Performance Track will be preceded by "P-" (P-CRO-II, for example).

Teams may work in either or both Tracks but must earn the prior title in that Track to be eligible for the next Level. For example, to enter Level III of the Performance Track the team must have a Performance Track Level II title. A Traditional Track Level II title does not make the team eligible for Level III in the Performance Track.

Regular Titles

The Regular titles are as follows:

3 Qs at Level I earns this title: CRO-I
3 Qs at Level II earns this title: P-CRO-II or T-CRO-II
3 Qs at Level III earns this title: P-CRO-III or T-CRO-III
3 Qs at Level IV earns this title: P-CRO-IV or T-CRO-IV
3 Qs at Level V earns this title: P-CRO-V and P-CRO-CH
                         or T-CRO-V and T-CRO-CH

NOTE: Dogs with an equivalent first level title in a recognized rally venue need only one qualifying run for the CRO-I title. Dogs with an equivalent second level title in a recognized rally venue need only two qualifying runs for a CRO-II title. Recognized rally venues include (but are not limited to) AKC, ASCA, CKC, Rally FrEe, UKC, and WCRL.

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Championship Titles

The Championship titles are as follows:

Regular titles at all five levels in either Track earns this title: P-CRO-CH or T-CRO-CH (see Level V, above)
10 Qs at Level I earns this title: CRO-CH-LI
10 Qs at Level II earns this title: P-CRO-CH-LII or T-CRO-CH-LII
10 Qs at Level III earns this title: P-CRO-CH-LIII or T-CRO-CH-LII
10 Qs at Level IV earns this title: P-CRO-CH-LIV or T-CRO-CH-LIV
10 Qs at Level V earns this title: P-CRO-CH-LV or T-CRO-CH-LV

Grand Champion Title

The Grand Champion title is for dogs who have earned Championship titles at all five levels in a Track (50Qs, 10 from each level). The Grand Champion Title earned is P-CRO-GrCH or T-CRO-GrCH.

Duplicate Championship Titles

Teams may continue to earn championship Qs in a particular level. For example, after earning the CRO-CH-LI title, 10 additional Qs at Level I earns this title: CRO-CH-LI(2).

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Title Certificates

A certificate is awarded for each title and is sent by e-mail.

Ribbons and Rosettes

Ribbons are optional.

A "First Q" ribbon for the team's first Q at each level is available at no charge. Indicate that option on the entry form.

Title rosettes are also available, both for Level titles and Championship titles. Title rosette requests are made on the title entry form and payments are made with the entry.

Rosettes 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 rosette.

The optional Grand Champion rosette is FREE and will be mailed anywhere in the world with no surcharge.

Ribbons are mailed monthly on the last weekday of the month.

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RALLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RALLY JUDGING STANDARDS

Q. Who will judge rally entries?
   Answer: The senior judges are all handlers who have put either a P-CRO-CH or a T-CRO-CH title on their dogs. Junior judges have Level III titles and may judge Levels I, II, and III.

Q. I have physical challenges and cannot do a fast pace. Can my dogs and I still enter?
   Answer: Yes. Indicate the issue when sending your entry and you can change a Fast to a Slow on any course. CRO is definitely a challenging rally venue, but its policy is to make it accessible to every dog and handler who can get through the courses. You can also choose or design courses without the Fast signs.

Q. Are we allowed to practice the course before we video?
   Answer: Yes. Practice as much as you want. Some courses, especially at the higher levels, require practice before running them successfully.

Q. If my dog wanders to the end of the leash and it gets tight, is that considered a TL (tight leash) deduction?
   Answer: Yes, it is. If you need to, keep the leash loose by following your dog until you can regain his/her attention. If you have more than three inadvertent tight leash incidents during the run, start over again.

EQUIPMENT

Q. Can we use different objects such as vases or shoes in place of cones?
   Answer: Yes, you can use anything visible as "cones" as long as they allow you to perform the stations correctly according to the exercise descriptions.

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Q. I have a full set of AKC rally signs. May I use them instead of printing the CRO signs? Of course, for the stations that don't exist in AKC, I will print the CRO signs.

Answer: Yes, that is fine. As long as the stations are performed according to the CRO exercise descriptions, you can use any venue's signs that you have.

Q. Do we need to use particular sign holders? I have chalk boards on which I can write signs.

Answer: Sign holders are not required. You can use any type of sign holders, or you can lay the signs on the ground. You can mark stations any way you prefer.

Q. Do the signs need to be printed full size? I like to print 4 to a sheet and store each sign in a zip sandwich bag. They are easy to store but big enough to read and they stay dry when working outside.

Answer: No need to print full size. Just be sure to perform the correct exercise at each station on the course.

Q. May I write on the signs? I find the arrows to be very helpful. Could I draw an arrow on my directional signs so I know which way to go?

Answer: Yes, that is fine.

Q. Can the target for the Send to Target exercises (Level II) be a square big enough for the dogs to sit or down on?

Answer: Yes. The sign description says the target can be "...any size, large or small..." But be sure the nearest edge of the target is at least the required distance for the exercise description.

Q. May I use mouse pads as targets? My dog sometimes steals one.

Answer: Mouse pads are fine. But don't let the dog pick up the target. It will be an IP during the exercise and an NQ any other time.

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COURSES

Q. Do we need to do the courses in the order they are listed?
  Answer: Not at all. You select which course you want to do for each entry. You can also design your own course (see "Handler-Created Course" in Section 3).

Q. Will higher level courses include lower level signs?
  Answer: Yes.

Q. When setting the cones for the Serpentine and Spiral exercises, what should the distance be between each cone?
  Answer: The description of the signs says "...with spaces between them of approximately four to eight feet." But if you make them closer or farther, it's fine. Participants are encouraged to set the courses for their own comfort and the comfort of their dogs. If someone is in a wheel chair, or a dog is in a cart, or the dog is tiny or very large, a different spacing may be more suitable. Any way it is set, the exercise shows the skill being performed by the team.

Q. I saw a discrepancy in the course map and the list of signs. Which is correct – map or list?
  Answer: The course map is correct. If there is a discrepancy, it is in the list of signs. Follow the course map and PLEASE notify CRO of any discrepancies so they can be corrected. Thank you!

PERFORMANCE OF SIGNS

Q. It looks like the dogs can sit or stand in the Call Fronts. Is that right?
  Answer: Yes. The dog does not have to sit when called to Front position. The dog may do a Sit or a Stand, but s/he must pause in the position.

Q. When the team stops on signs that say "Stop", doesn't the dog have to sit? What about finishes?
  Answer: No. The dog may sit or stand for the "Stop" unless the sign

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says, "Stop. (Stand)..." in which case the dog must remain standing. The dog may sit or stand on all Finishes, as well. Sits are always optional unless the sign specifically directs a "Sit." For Stands, be sure your dog pauses with all four feet still. All six feet must be stopped - your feet and the dog's feet - to perform a "Stop" correctly. The same goes for a "Front" and a "Finish. Wait" - all six feet are stopped at the same time.

Q. Is there a preferred way to perform the transition signs?

Answer: There is no method that is preferred. You need to switch from Heel to Side or Side to Heel, but how you perform the switch is up to you. The transition can be simple or complex.

Q. Level I, Sign 24, is "Stop (Stand). Walk Around". The description says "The team stops" but I perform this more as a moving stand walk around. Must I pause before walking around?

Answer: You must perform the Stop. The only "Moving" stations are in Levels IV and V. All signs that indicate "Stop" or "Stop (Stand)" require both dog and handler to hold either a Stand at Heel/Side or a Sit at Heel/Side for a moment (pause) before performing the next part of the exercise. If you perform sign 24 as a moving stand or the Level I "Stop. Down." exercises as a moving down, it is incorrect and an IP.

Q. On the Level I "Stop. Down." exercise, does the dog sit and then lie down, like in the traditional Rally "Halt. Down."? Or does the dog stop (standing) and down from a stand?

Answer: In CRO, every "Stop" means the team stops moving and the dog can either stand or sit for the "Stop" (except the Stop [Stand] signs which require a Stand). So, some teams may perform the "Stop. Down" sign as a Stand, pause, Down and some as a Sit, pause, Down. Both are correct. Be sure to pause in the "Stop" position (whether a Sit or a Stand) before cueing the next position.

Q. On the Level I "Stop. Down" exercise, does the dog have to hesitate at the Stand position first before I cue her to "down" or can we do a "Drop down" as soon as we hit the sign?

Answer: The dog MUST pause before the Down. The "Stop" in CRO

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is either a Stand or a Sit (except where required to be a Stand, see next question). There must be a pause in either Stand or Sit before the dog does the Down.

Q. "Stop (Stand)" means the dog must not sit before the Stand, right?
     Answer: Correct. Every "Stop." is an option to sit or stand EXCEPT where the sign says, "Stop. (Stand)" which means the dog does NOT sit and must remain standing when the team stops.

Q. The descriptions of the Call Front signs say the handler backs up. Is that required if the dog can come to Front without the handler backing up?
     Answer: The handler may back up as an aid to the dog and to give the dog the fun of chasing the handler for a few steps into Front position, but it's optional. However, on the Long Call Front exercises, it is required.

Q. On the Single and Double Serpentine, if the dog is working in Side position, is the entry the same as for Heel position (with the first cone on the left side of the team)? For Spiral Left, would the dog be on the outside?
     Answer: The entry is the same whether the dog is in Heel or Side. On the Spiral Left, the dog working in Side will be on the outside of the spirals. That is why the signs do not say "dog outside" or "dog inside". The dog will be outside or inside depending on whether s/he is working in Heel or Side position.

Q. Why do CRO signs say "Stop" instead of "Halt" and why not have the dogs sit instead of giving the option to stand?
     Answer: CRO uses "Stop" instead of "Halt" because to most of us the word "Halt" means for the dog to sit. For teams doing both CRO and freestyle, many handlers do not want the dogs to sit when they stop. Another reason is that tons of sits on a course are demotivating for many dogs and even uncomfortable for some dogs. So CRO gives the option to stand instead. For teams not doing freestyle and teams doing traditional obedience/rally, the dogs can sit or do a mix of Sits and Stands. Rally is supposed to be fun, and whether a dog can do multiple sits or not does not reflect on the level of attention and team skills. There are some CRO

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stations that require a Sit, but not too many. Whether your dog does a
Stand or a Sit, be sure there is a pause after each Stop or you risk an IP.

Q. When we do a retry at a station, can we do it in the same place where we stopped to do the station or do we need to go back and approach the station again?

 Answer: If you are retrying a station, you MUST leave the station and move back a few steps. Then approach the station and try it again. Do not do the station twice while in position at the station. That will be an IP. A proper retry includes approaching the station again for a completely fresh start. (REMINDER: Do not do the <u>previous</u> *station again; that will result in an IP for that station as well.)*

VIDEO

Q. I forgot to raise my hand at the Start line when I was videoing. Is this an NQ?

 Answer: No. The handler's raised hand at the start and finish allows the judges to mark the start and finish easily when viewing the video. If you forget, it is not an NQ.

Q. Can I show a photo instead of a video of my dog's equipment?

 Answer: Yes, that is fine. Attach it to the entry email. You can use the same video clip or photo for all runs using the same equipment.

Q. To video the signs while walking through the course, do I take the vidcam around and show each sign and say the station number or do I leave the camera on the tripod and then walk without the dog naming the signs as I go.

 Answer: Either way is fine. The judges need to make sure the course is set correctly. If you are walking without the camera, be sure your voice is audible as you read the signs.

Q. My dog was not completely visible for a second or two during the video clip of the run. You can see most of her, but her tail and butt disappear as

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she is making a turn. Is that still an acceptable video to send in?

Answer: Yes, that's fine, as long as the judge can see most of the dog and what s/he is doing for that brief time.

Q. I want to self-video using a wide angle lens. We will appear to be far away. Can we enter a video like that?

Answer: Yes. But make sure the team appears "large" enough for the judge to easily see the performance at each station. The best angle for a vidcam that is not going to be panned or zoomed is usually near a corner of the ring area.

MISCELLANEOUS

Q. Is there a time limit to finish a title?

Answer: There is no time limit. You can enter whenever it's convenient and you can work at your own pace.

Q. Can you submit multiple entries at one time, say all runs for Level 1?

Answer: Yes, you can submit multiple entries at the same time, but review the Multiple Entry Discount Rules (Section 1) to be certain you only submit entries for which your dog is eligible. Make a single PayPal payment for the total of all multiple entries.

Q. Are you competing against other dogs in your level?

Answer: No. You are only competing against the standards for qualifying and the challenges of a particular course. Other teams are not involved.

Q. Where are the moves executed in relation to the signs?

Answer: In traditional rally, most signs will be on the handler's right and the dog is on the left. In CRO, where dogs may work on both sides, there is no requirement to have the sign on the left or the right. Whichever side you choose for sign placement is fine as long as the station is completed correctly and in the right order. You can mix sign placement (left and right) on a single course if that suits you.

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Q. Why are there pairs (or more) of some signs? Should I print both of them?

    Answer: Yes, print both. Some courses use two of the same sign.

Thank you for participating in Cyber Rally-O!!

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