

**CYBER RALLY-O  
CLUSTERS and 1-2-3 PING PONG WORKSHOP  
July 10 through July 19, 2026**



Welcome to the workshop! The goal is for you to have, by the end of the workshop, an entry for one of these two CRO Games Division games: Clusters or 1-2-3 Ping Pong. Each qualifying Games Division entry (a "Q") is a title.

For each game, there are five levels (five titles, the fifth also being a championship title for that game) and they must be earned in order, starting with Level 1. This workshop focuses on two of the CRO games. Clusters and 1-2-3 Ping Pong are both suitable for beginner, intermediate, and advanced rally teams. The Level 1 Clusters entry requires at least 12 stations. All levels of 1-2-3 Ping Pong require just 6 stations.

There is always plenty of help in the Facebook group. Post your questions, and don't be concerned that a question is too simple or "dumb" - there are surely others who will benefit from the answer. We have all been newbies at times.

Let's get started! Try to do all the activities and don't wait until the last minute. If you are not new to video entries and/or CRO, you may have already done Activities A through D.

These workshop handouts are attached to this activity list:

1. Video Basics
2. Choosing Your Workshop Game

**ACTIVITY A:** Read the "Video Basics" document (attached).

**ACTIVITY B:** Check your video equipment and tripod. If you need a wide angle attachment or an adapter to get your phone or tablet on your tripod, order those ASAP. If you have an always-available videographer, lucky you! But you will still need a tripod for the best results.

**ACTIVITY C:** If you have questions about recording your video, editing software, YouTube, etc., please ask ASAP. The goal is to get your entry finished and submitted before the end of this workshop.

**ACTIVITY D:** If you do not already have a YouTube channel (or Vimeo, Rumble, etc.), set it up now. It's free! Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), look in the upper right part of the screen and click on the sign up option. Follow the instructions and you'll be all set.

**ACTIVITY E:** Read "Choosing Your Workshop Game" (attached). Then review the Clusters and 1-2-3 Ping Pong descriptions on the [Games Division page](#) on the CRO website. Which game do you prefer for your workshop entry?. Download and read the relevant guidelines document. Also download and read the [CRO Rules & Guidelines](#). If you have questions about the games or need help choosing one, post to the group. You will always get information and suggestions.

**ACTIVITY F:** Watch your game's demo video and "Tips for Doing Rally Entries in Small Spaces" on the [CRO Games Demos](#) YouTube playlist. The link to your game is also in the document for your game.

**ACTIVITY G:** Choose a track for your entry. In the Performance Track, the dog works on both sides of the handler (Heel and Side position). In the Traditional Track, the dog works only in Heel or Side - your choice. If your dog has only learned to work in Heel (or Side) position, choose the Traditional Track. If your dog has experience working on both sides, you can choose the Performance Track or the Traditional Track.

**ACTIVITY H:** Choose your workspace. It need not be large. You will design your course to fit the space. Some options are your driveway, yard, patio, garage, den, or living room. You can also use a park, school yard (when school is not in session), empty parking lot, or training facility; but working at home is most convenient.

**ACTIVITY I:** Draw a map of your workspace. This will help you design your course. If your game is 1-2-3 Ping Pong, where will you place the two cones? Where will you place the camera? Will your camera's lens be wide enough to capture the entire space? If not, consider placing markers at the edges of the camera's view so you and your dog will be visible for the entire run.

**ACTIVITY J:** Make a short video of you walking the perimeter of the workspace. Are you visible throughout? Will your dog be a tiny speck at the far

end of the space? Will the judge be able to easily see both of you wherever you are? If you are not sure, post the video to the group; or take a picture of your dog at the far end of the workspace and post that. I will help you set up your workspace with good camera placement.

**ACTIVITY K:** Begin designing your course by making a list of the CRO rally exercises your dog knows well. If you are restricted to a certain exercise level (as in 1-2-3 Ping Pong), review the [Exercise Descriptions](#) document for that level. If there are no restrictions and your game allows exercises from all levels (as in Clusters), review all five [Exercise Descriptions](#) documents. CRO has exercises from several sports, not just typical rally. Your dog may know some higher level exercises from other sports and you might like to use some of those in your entry. Watch the [Demos of Rally Exercises](#) videos, as needed.

**ACTIVITY L:** If you are new to course design, don't be daunted. Using the course criteria for your game and your list of "my dog knows these" exercises, choose one and then another, etc. You can always make changes. When you have made a course that meets criteria for your game, post it to the group. I will check that it meets criteria and may make suggestions regarding flow, visibility, etc. If you are stuck, post to the group and I will help you design your course. It's fun and easy once you have done your first one.

**ACTIVITY M:** Once the course is designed, you are ready to lay it out and walk it. You don't need sign holders (or signs if you memorize the course). Signs can lay on the ground, be taped to a nearby wall, set on furniture, or be held in your hand. Signs can be any size and/or hand-written. Signs from other venues are fine if they fit the CRO exercise description. You can also print your list of exercises on a single page and carry it while you run the course. You can list exercises on index cards, too. In the 1-2-3 Ping Pong game, for example, you might have a card with one exercise, another listing two exercises, and a third listing the last three exercises for your course. Walk the course and make adjustments as needed. You can re-order stations, substitute exercises, move your starting point or the camera, etc.

**ACTIVITY N:** First, read the "CRO NOTES" on page 4 of this document. Then practice your run with your teammate. Video your practice runs (one of them may be perfect). You must show your entire team, so use a wide angle lens attachment and/or set up the tripod far enough away from your work area.

You can post your video clips in the group for comment. If you are new to CRO, please do this with your first run, for sure, so I can catch any glitches as early as possible. It's only \$10 to do a retry if an entry is an NQ, but it's so much nicer to get a Q on the first try!

**ACTIVITY O:** When you get an entry-worthy run, put it on YouTube and post the link to the group so I can check it before you send it in for judging. In a comment, post (1) the course exercise list you are including with your entry and (2) a picture of the dog's equipment (if any). I want to make sure everything is correct before you submit your entry.

**ACTIVITY P:** If your dog is not registered with CRO, follow the [REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS](#) on the site. Lifetime registration is \$15 per dog (free when you submit an entry during the Trifecta event, which is currently running through 9/15/26). Complete the [ENTRY FORM](#) and pay the entry fee.

## CRO NOTES

This information is in the CRO [Rules and Guidelines \(R&G\)](#), but to avoid an NQ, please be sure you know these rules/requirements.

### 1. Equipment Reminders:

Leashes are optional at all levels of CRO. They are never required.  
Collars and harnesses (front or rear clip) are also optional.  
Collars: only buckle, snap, and martingales are allowed. No slip collars (or slip leashes) of any type (metal, nylon, etc.).

### 2. Tight Leash (TL) Reminder:

Leashes, if any, must be kept loose.  
A judge will NQ an entry if a run has  
a) more than three unintentional TL incidents, or  
b) a single intentional TL incident.

**3. Stop and Pause Reminder:** Don't risk an IP (Incorrect Performance of an exercise). A complete STOP (all six feet) and PAUSE (obvious to the judge) is required for every exercise containing a Stop, Call Front, Finish with a Wait, and/or position change. Failure to Stop and Pause will result in an IP

and will lower your score by 10 points. The opening paragraphs the Rally Division Exercise Descriptions document for each level clearly spell this out. If you say, "Good dog" every time you are in a pause, you will have your pause built in and will never lose 10 points for a missed pause.

**4. Food Reward Reminder:**

CRO (like WCRL and some other venues) permits the handler to give food rewards during a run, provided the team is completely stopped (all six feet) before the handler reaches for the treat and until the dog finishes the treat. Please read the treat delivery requirements in the R&G if you would like to use treats during your run. (Section 8-1 of the R&G).

**4. Jump Reminder:**

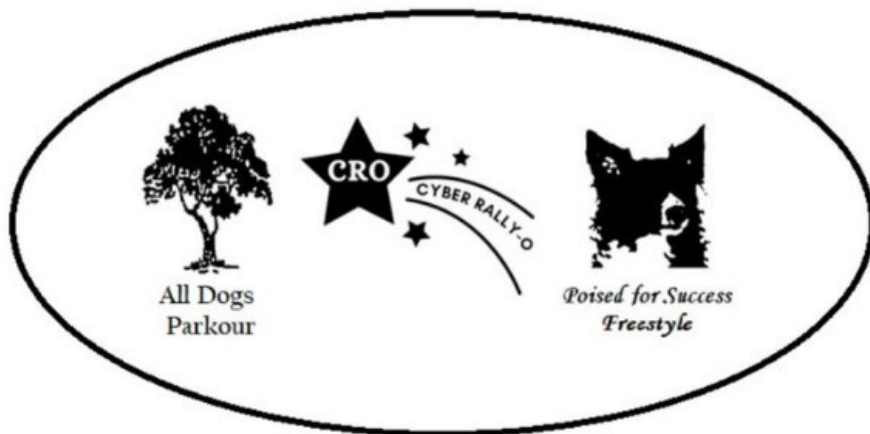
If you are using jumps in your entry, the top bar **MUST** easily fall if the dog hits it. Use an obedience bar jump or an agility-style jump. You can also use a pole or broomstick on two boxes or cans.

Jump heights cannot exceed 16". The jump height can be as low as you want, including a pole laying on the ground or the dog walking between two stanchions. Your dog's height is irrelevant.

**5. Retry Reminder:**

Read "Retrying a Station" (Section 14-1 in the R&G).

**6. NQ List Reminder:** Read "Non-Qualifying Entries (NQs)" at Section 15-1 in the R&G.



## WORKSHOP VIDEO BASICS



If you want individual feedback during the workshop, you will need to post videos of your team doing the exercises. Here are some "video basics" to help you get the best clips with the least effort. For more tips/info read Section 9 of the [CRO Rules & Guidelines](#) (Video Requirements and Tips).

1. Decide on your recording device: phone, tablet, vidcam, etc. Any type is fine.
2. Get a tripod. Even with a videographer, you still need a tripod to get stable clips. If you are going to use it outside, make sure it is heavy enough not to blow over in a breeze. Amazon Basics tripods are good and inexpensive.
3. If your device doesn't fit on a tripod, get an adapter. These are very inexpensive on Amazon and are available for all phones and tablets.
4. Decide where you will take your videos. Indoors is most convenient. Outdoors has more space, if that's required for the workshop you are doing.
5. Set up your tripod and device in the chosen location. Does the device capture the whole area (or enough of it to show your team doing the workshop exercises)? If you need a wider view, buy a wide angle lens attachment (very inexpensive for phones and tablets and for some vidcams and cameras).
6. If you are videoing only part of a space, use cones/chairs/etc. to mark the edges of your device's view so you don't walk off-screen by mistake.
7. Get a free YouTube channel. At [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), click the icon in the upper right of the screen and following the instructions.
8. Upload a sample video to YouTube. There are numerous instructional videos on YT if you aren't sure how to do this.
9. Editing software is optional. You can cut the ends off clips in the YouTube editor. If you want more editing options, ask in the [CRO group](#) for software suggestions.
10. Need more help? Ask in the [CRO group](#). You will always get help there. Video gives you training advantages and opens many new titling opportunities.

## CHOOSING YOUR WORKSHOP GAME



For this workshop, choose the game that is easiest for your team. You want to have your entry within 10 days, so make your success as easy as possible. Comparisons, comments, and tips for both games are below.

### A Note About References to "Levels"

Each game has five levels, each level being a title. These are Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, etc, for each game. Don't confuse the game titling levels with the references to exercise levels.

Exercise level references are to the [CRO Rally Division exercises](#) in each of the Rally Division's five titling levels. Exercise levels (and CRO Rally Division titles) are referred to as Level I, Level II, Level III, Level IV, and Level V (Roman numerals).

Your games course will be designed from the CRO Rally Division exercises. Some games allow you to choose exercises from all the Rally levels and some require you to choose exercises that are at the same level as the level of the game entry you are doing (that is, a 1-2-3 Ping Pong Level 1 entry requires all exercises from the [CRO Rally Level I exercise list](#)).

### 1-2-3 PING PONG

**Number of exercises for a Level 1 entry: 6** (all from Rally Level I)

**Equipment:** two cones or other objects (chairs, boots, boxes, etc.)

**Special Training:** None. The dog, handler, or the team needs to circle a cone several times during the run. If your dog doesn't know how to go around an object, s/he can do a Stay while you go around. Or, you can both heel around the cone.

## **Tips/Comments:**

Tips from Vanessa:

1. Be sure to designate coupled exercises. If not, the judge will expect steps between exercises. [Note: coupled exercises are done in succession in the same spot.]

2. Make sure you STOP in Heel/Side position (whichever you were working in) after the last cone loop and wait. Got pinged on that one several times and lost points for OOP (Out of Position).

3. Check your camera angle. If you do an exercise that has your back to the camera the judge may not see it clearly. You could get an IP (Incorrect Performance) and lose 10 points

4. Put numbers on your cones. A small "1, 3" on the first cone and a "2, 4" on Cone B can save you heartache. It's easy to get confused when running the course.

Amanda says: [As a new CRO participant with dogs who are new to rally and this game] Seemed like the least confusing/intimidating game, so that's the one we went with for our first time trying games! You can do it in smaller spaces and it only requires 2 cones. If you can memorize your course, you don't need to print signs!

## **CLUSTERS**

**Number of exercises for a Level 1 entry: 12** (from any Rally Level) plus exercises to turn the team in a different direction if not included in the clusters themselves.

**Equipment:** two cones or other objects

**Special Training:** None.

## **Tips/Comments:**

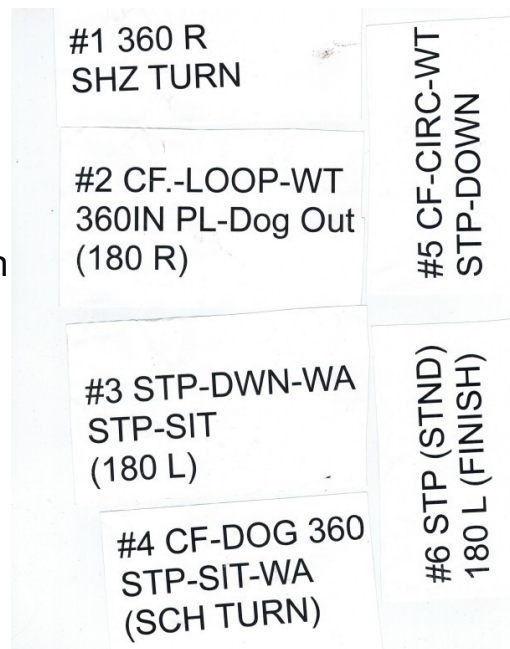
This game allows you to use exercises from all the Rally Division Levels. Depending on your dog's other sports, some of the higher level exercises may be easier for your team than lower level exercises. Review all five Rally exercise lists to see what exercises your team can easily do.

A tip for setting up a Clusters course is to use signs (print 2 or 4 to a page to save space) but number the clusters as 1, 2, 3 rather than numbering each

exercise. Even if you're going back and forth in a small, narrow space, you won't get lost because the clusters are numbered so you'll do them in order.

If you prefer, you can hold course notes in your hand with each cluster numbered. Here's a photo of notes for a Level 1 Clusters course. Each cluster in Level 1 has two exercises. The handler has abbreviated the exercise names.

Can you figure out the exercises? Use abbreviations that are easy for you to recognize. Carrying notes for the course saves the time and space it takes to set up signs and numbers.



### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Post in the Fb group if you are having trouble deciding which game to choose. There is always help from me and from other judges and participants.

No matter which game you do, I will be helping you throughout the workshop and will make sure your entry is done correctly.

If you are brand new to rally or have a new dog, instead of a game, you can do the workshop with a Foundation Rally Skills entry. As with the games, I will help you through it and your dog will have a new title. The document, [Foundation Rally Skills Titling Program](#), is on the website on it's own page.