

Changes to Rally Regulations for 2027

The Royal Kennel Club has approved the following changes to the regulations for Rally.

The following amendment to the regulations reduces the minimum number of entries for capped classes from 40 to 20. The amendment is to the minimum capping level only. Show organisers are still be able to set a capping level above 20, and societies which cap their classes at 40 dogs will continue to be able to do so.

Amendment to Regulation S5.c.(3)

TO:

c. Capped classes

(3) The capping level must be set at a minimum of ~~40~~ **20** entries received. There is no maximum level at which a cap may be set. Capped classes may be split ~~into two or more divisions~~ in accordance with Regulation S20**k**.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

The following amendment to regulation S7 and S9.a, returns to the six week licence application timeframe for Rally competitions.

Regulation S7. Societies are required to apply for permission to hold Special Events

TO:

Applications should be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club by email at least six ~~weeks months~~ before the start of any qualifying heats for the event.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

Regulation S9.a. Application to Host a Rally competition.

TO:

The application to hold a competition must be submitted to the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club and must be accompanied by the appropriate licence fee at least six ~~weeks months~~ before the proposed date of the competition.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

The following is an addition to the S regulations for all disciplines to clarify the position regarding refunds issued following the closing date of entries.

Addition to regulations S12.f

TO:

The closing date for entries shall form the contract between the competitor and the society. Where a dog is withdrawn from competition after the closing date for entries, no refund of fee(s) paid shall be due.

(Insertion in bold. Subsequent regulations to be renumbered)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

The below amendment removes the maximum height for a hoop, due to concerns raised by the community about the suitability of the hoop for taller dogs.

Regulation S16.h Facilities and Equipment.

TO:

h. For all jump exercises the jump may be replaced with a hoop. Hoops may be based or baseless and must be constructed in a safe manner. Hoops should measure **at least** 89-92cm tall, 85-90cm wide with feet protruding no more than 31cm either side of the hoop. Where conditions dictate, hoops may be pegged or held down by sandbags that do not impede the dog's entry or exit from the hoop.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

The below amendments relate to the removal of the objection fee as part of the complaints process.

Regulation S28.b.(2)

TO:

~~(2) The objection fee of £35, or such amount as may from time to time be decided by the Board.~~

(deletion struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

Regulation S28.c

TO:

~~The objection fee may be returned after consideration of the objection.~~

(deletion struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

The following amendment to the S regulations for clarification to regulation S(B)4.d relating to run offs.

Regulation S(B)4.d

TO:

Tied scores for place awards - In the event that two or more dog/handler teams score an equal number of points, they shall be invited to participate in a run-off using a Bonus exercise appropriate to the level. The run off bonus

should be stated on the course plan submitted to the Secretary and/or the Chief Steward. **Where none of the parties involved are available for the runoff, the order shall be decided at the discretion of the judge.**

(Insertions in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

The following amendments to the S regulations allows the option for competitors to remove their leads in Level 2 Bonus Exercises.

Bonus Exercise 4

TO:

SIT - LEAVE DOG - CALL TO HEEL. This exercise requires two signs. At the first sign (A) the handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler may take the lead off or the dog may drag the lead. The handler walks to the second sign (B), which is placed approximately 2 metres from sign A. The handler will not turn to face the dog but instead, with his/her back to the dog, will call the dog to move to the heel position. The handler may turn his/her head slightly while cueing the dog to heel. The dog must come promptly and sit at heel. Once sitting, the exercise is considered complete.

The handler may also choose to remove their lead between the Finish and Bonus Start Signs.

NB: If this bonus is used at Level 3 or above there is no requirement to reattach the lead before attempting this bonus exercise.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

Bonus Exercise 5

TO:

SIT - LEAVE DOG - TURN - RECALL - HANDLER FINISH. This exercise requires two signs. At the first sign (A) the handler and dog stop with the dog sitting at heel. The handler may take the lead off or the dog may drag the lead. The handler walks to the second sign (B), which is placed approximately 2 metres from sign A, turns and recalls the dog to the front position. The dog remains in the sit whilst the handler moves left to take up the heel position. Once the handler has moved to the heel position, the exercise is considered complete. This is not a walk around exercise.

The handler may also choose to remove their lead between the Finish and Bonus Start Signs.

NB: If this bonus is used at Level 3 or above there is no requirement to reattach the lead before attempting this bonus exercise.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

Eligibility and Progression

The below amendments to the S regulations relate to class progression. From 1 January 2027, handler and dog teams can remain at a Level until they gained their Excellent title, but can choose to progress once they had gained their Level title.

Amendments to Regulation S(A)1. Levels

TO:

1. Levels

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

Levels 5 & 6 have a qualifying score of 180 ~~out of 200~~.

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

~~Scores equivalent to these qualifying scores (or greater) earned at Limited Rally competitions do not count towards Progression, Rally Level titles or Excellent.~~

~~In all levels a qualifying score of 190 or above equates to an excellent score.~~
(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)
(Effective 1 January 2027)

Amendments to Regulation S(A)2. Veteran

TO:

2. Veteran

Rally ~~handler/dog~~/handler teams where the dog is 7 years of age or older may compete in Veteran as well as, or instead of, their lowest eligible class. Veteran has a qualifying score of 175 ~~out of 200~~.
A qualifying score of 190 or above equates to an excellent score.
(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)
(Effective 1 January 2027)

Addition to the Regulations as S(A)3. Validity of Scores

TO:

3. Validity of scores

Only scores equivalent to, or greater than, qualifying scores earned in standard classes at Open competitions count towards progression, rally titles, excellent titles and rally warrants. Scores earned at Limited Rally competitions do not count.
(Insertions in bold. Subsequent regulations to be renumbered)
(Effective 1 January 2027)

Amendment and Renumbering Regulation S(A)3. Eligibility

TO:

~~2~~ 4. Eligibility

a. Standard Level Classes

When entered for a competition in a standard level class, a dog must be entered at the level for which it is eligible. The dog may also, if desired, be entered in up to two additional classes including one further standard level class at the subsequent higher level. ~~, one additional special class, or two additional special classes. A dog may be entered in special classes only, up to a maximum of 3 classes. Special classes do not count towards progression.~~ Once a dog has earned any level or excellent title, it is no longer eligible for any lower level.

b. Veteran classes

A dog which is 7 years old or over on the day of the competition may be entered in just the Veteran class. It may also be entered in Standard Level classes and special classes to a maximum of 3 classes in total.

c. Special classes

A dog may be entered in special classes only, up to a maximum of 3 classes in total. Special classes do not count towards progression, **titles or warrants.**

Level 1

- Open to all dogs which have not achieved a ~~Level 1 or~~ Level 1 Excellent title **or where their handler has not chosen to progress on a Level 1 title, except those that have achieved a title from a higher level.**

Level 2

- Open to all dogs which have achieved a ~~Level 1 or~~ Level 1 Excellent title **or where their handler has chosen to progress on a Level 1 title,** except those that have achieved a ~~Level 2 or Level 2 Excellent~~ title **from a higher level.** Dogs eligible for and entered at Level 1 may also enter at this level.

Level 3

- Open to all dogs which have achieved a ~~Level 2 or~~ Level 2 Excellent title **or where their handler has chosen to progress on a Level 2 title,** except those that have achieved a ~~Level 3 or Level 3 Excellent~~ title **from a higher level.** Dogs eligible for and entered at Level 2 may also enter at this level.

Level 4

- Open to all dogs which have achieved a ~~Level 3 or~~ Level 3 Excellent title **or where their handler has chosen to progress on a Level 3 title**, except those that have achieved a ~~Level 4 or Level 4 Excellent~~ title **from a higher level**. Dogs eligible for and entered at Level 3 may also enter at this level.

Level 5

- Open to all dogs which have achieved a ~~Level 4 or~~ Level 4 Excellent title **or where their handler has chosen to progress on a Level 4 title**, except those that have achieved a ~~Level 5 or Level 5 Excellent~~ title **from a higher level**. Dogs eligible for and entered at Level 4 may also enter at this level.

Level 6

- Open to all dogs which have achieved a ~~Level 5 or~~ Level 5 Excellent title **or where their handlers have chosen to progress on a Level 5 title**. Dogs eligible for and entered at Level 5 may also enter at this level.

Veteran

- Open to all dogs aged 7 years or over on the first day of the competition.
(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)
(Effective 1 January 2027)

Addition to the Regulations as S(A)5.

TO:

5. Progression

Progression is dependent upon gaining the required number of qualifying or excellent scores under the defined number of different judges. Dogs must progress upon gaining an Excellent title, the handler may choose to progress upon gaining a Level title, however, once a dog has progressed, it cannot return to the level that it progressed from.

(Insertions in bold. Subsequent regulations to be renumbered)

(Effective 1 January 2027)