



# Dogs NZ RALLY-O REGULATIONS

## JUDGES

### ***The Dogs NZ Rally-O Judges Panel***

Anyone may judge a Rally-O Event at a club fun day, novelty event or at a Ribbon Event, as long as they are not a "disqualified person" under Dogs NZ Rules and have a good knowledge and understanding of Dogs NZ Rally-O and how to judge it.

Anyone who wishes to judge at an Dogs NZ Championship Event, however, must be on the Dogs NZ Rally-O Judges Panel. The Panel consists of three levels:

### ***Novice Panel***

This is the panel judges go on to when first accepted as a Rally-O judge. Judges on this panel may judge Novice A and Novice B at Championship Events.

### ***Advanced Panel***

Novice judges who request promotion and meet all the regulated criteria for promotion are placed on the Advanced Panel. Judges on this panel may judge Novice A and B and Advanced A and B.

### ***Excellent Panel***

Advanced judges who request promotion and meet all the regulated criteria for promotion are placed on the Excellent Panel. Judges on this panel may judge Novice A and B, Advanced A and B and Excellent A and B.

### ***Applying to Become an Dogs NZ Rally-O Judge***

Rally-O Judge applications are considered by the Dogs NZ Rally-O Subcommittee. Anyone who wishes to become a judge must fill out the official Judge's Application Form and forward it to the Subcommittee.

The application form must clearly state all qualifying criteria. Judges can not be accepted onto the panel until they have met all the regulated requirements. The Rally-O Subcommittee will advise the applicant as to which criteria still need to be met before they can be accepted onto any panel.

Once a prospective judge has met all the necessary criteria, the Subcommittee will recommend them to the Dog Obedience Committee. If accepted by the Dog Obedience Committee, they will then be recommended to the Executive Council and upon acceptance there, they will be officially included on the Dogs NZ Rally-O Novice panel.

### ***Applying for Promotion***

A judge who wishes to apply for promotion to the next level on the Judges' Panel must fill in the official Judge's Application For Promotion Form and submit it to the Rally-O Subcommittee. This application will be considered in the same way and go through the same process as new judges' applications (described above). A Novice judge can only apply for promotion to the Advanced Panel, not the Excellent Panel.

## ***Criteria for Acceptance onto the Judges' Panel***

While it is not necessary for an applicant to have met all criteria before applying to become a judge or for promotion, they must have done so before they can be accepted onto any panel.

In most cases prospective judges will not have sat an examination or judged all their probationary appointments prior to submitting an application, however it is suggested that most of the other criteria should have been met before application is made. An applicant who has already gained experience and understanding through fulfilling such requirements as competing in events, gaining certificates, attending workshops and instructing classes will be more successful when sitting examinations and undertaking probationary judging appointments than they would be if they had no practical experience with Rally-O, and will also be in a better position to decide whether Rally-O judging is a good step for them or not.

There is no time limit within which any prospective judge must fulfil all the necessary criteria. An application may remain in progress for as long as the applicant wishes and will not be cancelled unless the applicant formally advises that they wish to withdraw the application.

All Dogs NZ Rally-O judges must be financial members of Dogs NZ (and therefore a financial member of an Dogs NZ club). Judges are also required to pay an annual licence fee.

## ***Criteria for Acceptance onto the Novice Panel***

Applicants must:

- have a solid knowledge of Dogs NZ Rally-O as demonstrated by experience in instructing Rally-O and by attending at least one Training and Assessment day.
- have attained at least two qualifying certificates at Dogs NZ Rally-O Novice level.
- have successfully completed 4 probationary appointments at Novice level under at least two different supervising judges, which will include submitting and using at least one original course.
- pass an open book examination

## ***Criteria for Acceptance onto the Advanced Panel***

Applicants must:

- have successfully judged at least four Championship Novice classes
- have successfully completed four probationary appointments at Advanced level under at least two different supervising judges, which will include submitting and using at least one original course.
- have competed at least twice at Advanced level
- pass an open book examination

## ***Criteria for Acceptance onto the Excellent Panel***

Applicants must:

- have successfully judged at least four Championship Advanced classes
- have successfully completed four probationary appointments at Excellent level under at least two different supervising judges, which will include submitting and using at least one original course.
- have competed at least twice at Excellent level
- pass an open book examination

## ***Attaining Qualifying Certificates and Competing in Events***

When attaining the required certificates or competing in the required classes, an applicant does not need to have run their own dog, or the same dog. Participation with any dog is acceptable as long as the applicant was the handler at the time. Certificates attained or classes run by the applicant's own dog do not count if someone else was handling the dog at the time.

## ***Probationary Judging Appointments***

These may be undertaken at Ribbon Events, Championship Events or club days. The applicant must judge with a supervising judge in the ring. The supervising judge must be on the Panel at the same level as, or higher than, the one the applicant is applying for.

While the probationary judge designs the course, sets it up, sets the various requirements as to how the course will be run and judges each team, the supervising judge will be considered to be the “official” judge, will be scheduled as the official judge in the Dog World magazine, and will sign all certificates. The supervising judge also provides the Rally-O Subcommittee with a report on the applicant’s judging.

An “appointment” is considered to be one class. For example, if a judge is judging Advanced A and Advanced B, that will be considered as two appointments.

## ***Applicants Judging Classes in their Own Right***

Where a judge is applying for promotion, an “event” is considered to be one class. For example if an Advanced judge has judged Advanced A and Advanced B at one competition, that would be considered to be two “events”.

## ***Examinations***

- An applicant must pass an examination as part of the criteria for acceptance onto any panel.
- The examination consists of thirty multi-choice questions. Twenty eight of these relate to the Rally-O regulations, the other two will relate to the Dog Obedience Regulations, Show Regulations or Dogs NZ Rules that are relevant to Rally-O. (**NB** the regulations also allow for questions that require answers of one word or number, however all current examinations in use are multi-choice)
- The applicant must be supervised by an independent member of Dogs NZ while sitting the examination. Applicants are responsible for arranging a supervisor for themselves and arranging a time and place to sit the examination. A senior judge or senior club member is suggested as an appropriate supervisor, however any Dogs NZ member of good standing and reputation is acceptable. Supervisors should not be family members, partners, employees, debtors or anyone else who might not be considered to be “independent” of the applicant.
- Upon request, examination papers will be sent by the Rally-O Subcommittee to the supervisor nominated by the applicant.
- The examination is always an open-book examination. Applicants may (in fact it is recommended) have a copy of all relevant Dogs NZ regulations on hand to refer to while sitting the exam. A ten minute read-through time is permitted. 30 minutes is then allowed for the applicant to complete the examination (**NB: this is flexible**)
- A pass rate of 90%, or 27 out of 30, is required. The supervisor is to mark the exam, let the Rally-O Subcommittee know the result and return the completed examination paper to the Subcommittee. The supervisor may also advise the applicant as soon as marking is complete as to whether or not they have passed. They can also provide correct answers to any questions the applicant got wrong, although obviously the examination paper and the result can not then be altered.
- If an applicant fails the exam, they may apply for a re-sit within twenty one days. Any re-sit must be completed within a further four weeks (if another examination paper is available they can re-sit immediately if they wish). Should they fail the examination again, they must attend another Training and Assessment Day and wait six months before re-sitting the exam.

## ***Conduct of Judges***

Rally-O Judges should:

- be friendly and courteous to all exhibitors
- keep all remarks professional and positive
- adequately explain all courses to exhibitors
- may discuss a handler's performance with them after the class if the handler so requests
- always maintain a professional appearance
- have demonstrated integrity, good demeanour and behaviour at canine activities
- have a positive history in club and region activities

## ***Decision Final***

By signing the application form, an applicant agrees to accept any decision made by the Rally-O Subcommittee, the Dog Obedience Committee and the Executive Council with regard to their application. The decision of the Executive Council and the Dog Obedience Committee is final and no correspondence will be entered into and no reasons need be given for the decision.

The only exception is where a judge who is already on the Rally-O panel is not re-appointed to that panel after the yearly review. In this case they have a right of appeal to the Executive Council