



Chapter 9

RALLY JUDGES

Responsibilities

Judges must demonstrate solid knowledge of APDT Rally Rules and Guidelines. If a questionable situation arises during the judging of a performance, Judges should make note of this and check the Rules and Guidelines before turning in the score sheet. When doubt remains, the Judge should always err on the side of the exhibitor.

It is critical that exhibitors have complete faith in the impartiality and competence of Judges. Judges have full discretion within the framework of APDT Rally Rules and Guidelines and must exercise this authority impartially. Judges may not discard, modify, or require anything not specified in the Rules and Guidelines. The Judge's primary concerns should be that all exhibitors understand the course and can perform all of the exercises safely.

Judges are expected to act in a courteous and professional manner that reflects positively upon both APDT and the trial host. They should listen carefully to exhibitor suggestions and comments as well as graciously mediate any disputes. Judges must refrain from making personal comments and be constructive and positive.

Judges must possess and demonstrate sound judging procedure and ring control.

Judges shall review with their stewards their respective duties and the manner in which they are to be performed. Any request from an exhibitor for special consideration must be directed to the Judge.

Following judging, Judges are encouraged to answer exhibitor questions regarding their performance.

Ethics

Judges must be unfailingly ethical and strive to avoid situations that might raise ethical questions.

Judges may not solicit or promote judging assignments.

Judges may not sell equipment or merchandise at trials at which they are officiating.

Judges in attendance but not officiating must not discuss the officiating Judges' actions, scoring, or decisions. Any expressed concerns and inquiries should be referred to the appropriate officiating Judge. Judges attending as exhibitors are not permitted to adjust the trial course during the walk-through, unless requested to do so by the officiating Judge.

Students of the officiating Judge may show under him/her, provided he/she did not personally train their dogs. Family members and/or household members may not show under the officiating Judge.

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Individuals with whom the officiating Judge co-owns dogs may not show under him/her. APDT recognizes that the Judge cannot control who enters a trial. However, everything possible must be done to ensure the integrity of a trial.

Philosophy of Scoring

It is the Judge's responsibility to qualify all teams that should qualify and to non-qualify all teams who did not meet the standards of a qualifying performance. When determining scoring for anything not specifically covered by the Rules and Guidelines, Judges should keep the spirit of APDT Rally-O in mind and decide in favor of the team.

Assignments

Engaging a Judge's services requires a written agreement with the Trial Host outlining their responsibilities and compensation. Judges may receive entries in the Judge's class as a portion of their compensation. Details on expense reimbursement may be found in the Rules and Guidelines in "Hosting a Rally Trial."

If for any reason a Judge cannot fulfill an assignment because of illness or other serious occurrence, the Judge must immediately notify the Trial Secretary or Trial Chair as soon as possible. If a Judge is delayed en route to a trial, every effort to contact the Trial Secretary and/or Trial Chair should be made.

Judges are encouraged to compete with their own dogs and may do so at trials they officiate, provided it does not interfere with their officiating duties. Judges must never interrupt their judging assignments to run their dog in another course.

Pre-Trial

Trial courses are to be reviewed by trial Judges two weeks prior to trial date. In the event there is only one Judge for a trial, course(s) can be reviewed by any other approved Judge for that level. When designing multiple courses for a multiple trial day/weekend, consider utilizing a wide variety of the available exercises.

Before the day of the trial, Judges should verify ring size with the Trial Host. Judges should also verify that the ring provides sure footing for both dogs and handlers: grass, packed dirt, fully matted concrete/wood, or any other non-skid surface.

Attire

It is important for a Judge to maintain a proper and professional appearance. While officiating, all Judges shall wear "Business Casual" attire (weather permitting).

Judges may not wear any clothing that advertises a club, organization, school, or dog breed, with the exception of APDT and/or Rally.

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Ring Condition

It is the Judge's responsibility to arrive at the show site early enough to inspect the ring and the equipment. The ring surface should not be slippery and should be free of debris and hazards. If conditions are less than satisfactory, the Judge will notify the Trial Host. The Judge is responsible to assure that conditions are brought up to satisfactory condition before competition begins. If resolution is not possible, the Judge may modify the course to insure the safety of the teams. If an extreme case exists, the Judge should file an Incident Report with the APDT Rally Office regarding the condition of the ring and steps taken to resolve the problem.

Nesting Courses

Judges are encouraged to nest courses whenever possible, particularly when a trial has a large entry. Nesting courses minimizes the time required to change courses between levels. Trial Hosts may request that Judges nest courses and should stipulate this in their Judge's Contract.

Judging the Performance

Being in the right position to observe a team's performance is critical. While designing a course, the Judge should consider his/her own path as well as that of the team. There is no perfect position, but this does not mean that some positions are not better than others. The Judge is expected to discreetly move around the course when necessary to judge a team's performance. Judges must not quickly move toward a moving dog, stand closely behind a dog, or follow a heeling team too closely. Judges should remain still while the dog is performing a "stay" exercise and avoid direct eye contact with the dog. The Judge should strive to see both the dog and handler at the same time.

Excusals

The Judge must excuse any dog from the ring that demonstrates uncontrollable misbehavior or exhibits threatening behavior towards the Judge, stewards, handler, other humans, and/or other dogs. Any and all cases of aggression by dogs towards other dogs and/or humans must be noted in a Trial Incident Report. This report is to be sent by the host club to the APDT Rally Office with all other trial paperwork.

Official's Conduct Committee

In the event a complaint about a Judge is submitted to the APDT Rally Office, it will be promptly reviewed, investigated, and addressed by the Rally Committee or others designated by the committee.

Continuing Education Requirements for Judges

Approved Judges must complete at least two of the following requirements on a yearly basis in order to maintain APDT approval:

1. Satisfactorily judge an APDT sanctioned Rally trial at each level for which they are approved
2. Exhibit at an APDT-sanctioned Rally trial
3. Attend a sanctioned APDT Rally Judges seminar or webinar

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Judges who do not complete the Continuing Education requirements will be removed from the APDT Directory of Approved Judges and must re-apply as a new Judge.

In addition, at least once every three years, all Judges must attend a sanctioned APDT Rally Judges Seminar or webinar.

Qualifications

Level 1 Judge Qualifications

1. Be a Full or Professional APDT member in good standing.
2. Support the APDT perspective on Rally as a means to encourage a positive relationship of mutual trust and respect between dogs and their owners.
3. Read and understand the APDT Rally Rules and Guidelines. Be thoroughly familiar with all the exercises utilized in Level 1 Rally courses.
4. Has earned an APDT Rally Level 1 title.
5. Qualify in two or more of the following areas:
 - a. Is currently a licensed or approved Rally Judge or Obedience Judge.
 - b. Is currently a dog training professional with at least three years of experience as a professional trainer.
 - c. Has judged at least six events (sanctioned or not) in either Rally or Obedience.
6. Submit an APDT Rally Level 1 Judge Application Form and a \$15.00 processing fee.
7. Pass the Level 1 Judge's test procedure.
8. Upon passing the Judge's test, complete the Apprentice Judge requirements to receive Provisional Level 1 Judge approval. (See Apprentice Judge Procedures below.)
9. Upon becoming a Provisional Level 1 Judge, receive a satisfactory rating at six APDT Sanctioned Rally Level 1 Trials to become a licensed Level 1 Judge.

All Level 1 Judges will be automatically approved as Puppy Level Judges and Junior Level Judges.

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Level 2 Judge Qualifications

1. Be a Full or Professional APDT member in good standing.
2. Support the APDT perspective on Rally as a means to encourage a positive relationship of mutual trust and respect between dogs and their owners.
3. Read and understand the APDT Rally Rules and Guidelines. Be thoroughly familiar with both the Level 1 and Level 2 exercises.
4. Be currently fully licensed as an APDT Rally Level 1 Judge.
5. Has earned an APDT Rally Level 2 title.
6. Submit an APDT Rally Level 2 Judge Application Form and a \$15.00 processing fee.
7. Pass the Level 2 Judge's test procedure.
8. Upon passing the Judge's test, receive Provisional Level 2 Judge approval.
9. Receive a satisfactory rating at six APDT Sanctioned Rally Level 2 Trials to become a licensed Level 2 Judge.

Level 3 Judge Qualifications

1. Be a Full or Professional APDT member in good standing.
2. Support the APDT perspective on Rally as a means to encourage a positive relationship of mutual trust and respect between dogs and their owners.
3. Read and understand the APDT Rally Rules and Guidelines. Be thoroughly familiar with both the Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 exercises.
4. Be currently fully licensed as an APDT Rally Level 2 Judge.
5. Has earned an APDT Rally Level 3 title.
6. Submit an APDT Rally Level 3 Judge Application Form and a \$15.00 processing fee.
7. Pass the Level 2 Judge's test procedure.
8. Upon passing the Judge's test, receive Provisional Level 3 Judge approval.
9. Receive a satisfactory rating at six APDT Sanctioned Rally Level 3 Trials to become a licensed Level 3 Judge.

All Level 3 Judges will be automatically approved as Veteran Level Judges.

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Apprentice Judge Procedures

After successfully passing the Judge's test for Level 1, all new Judges are required to apprentice judge two Level 1 Rally trials with two different approved Judges prior to accepting a judging assignment. Apprentice Judges do not receive compensation for this, as it is a requirement of licensing.

Apprentice Judges must notify the APDT Rally Office of the trials at which they wish to apprentice. The APDT Rally Office will then contact the Officiating Judges at these trials and the host club to confirm arrangements. In advance of the trial, the Officiating Judges will send the Apprentice Judge a copy of the Level 1 course they will be apprenticing.

Apprentice Judges may not show their dogs on courses they are apprenticing, nor enter their dog in the second ring of a two-ring trial at which they are apprenticing.

Day of Trial

- The host club will provide duplicate score sheets for the Apprentice Judge to use.
- The Apprentice Judge and Officiating Judge shall score each performance independently and simultaneously. Each should attempt to make notes on the score sheets of reasons for deductions.
- The Apprentice Judge shall position himself/herself so as to view the performance from the same perspective as the Officiating Judge but must not interfere with either the Officiating Judge's movement around the ring or the team's execution of the course.
- At the conclusion of each team's run, the Officiating Judge shall turn in the score sheet to the scoring steward. The Apprentice Judge shall keep all apprentice score sheets until the conclusion of the trial. The Apprentice Judge will not share these score sheets with anyone until the Officiating Judge reviews them with the Apprentice Judge. Time need not be noted on the apprentice score sheets. Only score sheets from the Officiating Judge shall be used to determine team scores.
- At the conclusion of the trial, after all ribbons and prizes have been awarded, the Officiating Judge and the Apprentice Judge shall review the apprentice score sheets and the Officiating Judge's score sheets.
- The Officiating Judge will file an Apprentice Judge Evaluation (available for download on the APDT Rally web site) with the APDT Rally Office. This may be sent to the Rally Office via email, fax, or US mail.

Upon receipt of satisfactory evaluations from two approved Judges, the Apprentice Judges shall be notified of their Provisional Level 1 Judge approval.