

CHAPTER 13 JR's DIVISION

Increasingly, all family members, including the young ones, are becoming involved in training the family dog. Children are participating successfully in dog and puppy training classes and at more and more competitive events. The APDT Rally-for-All-Dogs program applauds this trend and has developed a new level of competition to encourage these budding young trainers and competitors – APDT Rally JR Level.

Our goal is to include children in the POSITIVE Rally training experience and encourage them to develop a bond with their own animal companions as well as respect for all life. Children will learn responsibility and discipline, and experience the joy of learning to communicate and work cooperatively with their canine friends. The skills learned will serve them as they grow – into responsible, caring adults.

So, as we strive to include all dogs in our sport, we also invite all humans to participate – youngster or adult regardless of age or physical challenges.

ALL are welcome in APDT Rally

Eligibility

1. All youngsters age 8 – 18 may participate in Rally JR Level competition. The same rules regarding course modifications for the physically challenged will apply to JR Level Rally as apply to other APDT Rally events.
2. Youngsters under age 8 (hereafter called Pre-JRs) may compete on non-regular courses consisting of fewer stations. These competitors shall be accompanied in the ring by an adult. Safety for the child, his/her dog, and all spectators is the highest priority. The judge may excuse a competitor or request that an adult supervise more closely if he/she feels that safety is threatened.
3. APDT Rally JR is a team event. A team consists of one (1) dog and one (1) JR Rally handler. In the case of Pre-JR teams the team consists of one (1) dog, one (1) Pre-JR, and one (1) adult mentor. A mentor must be an adult (over the age of 18, but not limited to a parent) and must be listed on the trial entry application.

Registration

1. Teams must be registered and have a JR Registration number prior to entering competition. Either partner of the team may be registered in more than one team.
 2. Team registration fee is \$15. A \$5 spay/neuter discount is allowed when applicable. Team registration fee for any additional teams within the same family is \$5. JR Team Registration fee for dogs who are already registered for Rally events is \$5.
 3. JR Registration does not include competition in other Rally events.
-

Competition Rules

1. All APDT Rally rules are in effect in JR Level Rally.
2. JR Rally will be judged by any approved RallyO Judge.
3. All JR Rally exercises shall be performed on-leash.
4. Titles shall be awarded to the teams at three (3) levels: RallyJr Novice; RallyJr Intermediate; RallyJr Senior.
5. In order to attain a RallyJr title, teams must receive three (3) qualifying legs under at least two (2) different judges. All teams must earn a Novice title before competing in Intermediate, etc.
6. RallyJr Novice courses shall consist of 10 – 12 exercises chosen from APDT Rally Level 1 Exercise Stations 1 through 21.
7. RallyJr Intermediate courses shall consist of 12 – 15 exercises chosen from APDT RallyO Level 1 Exercise Stations 1 through 29.
8. RallyJr Senior courses shall consist of 12 – 18 exercises chosen from APDT Rally Level 1 Exercise Stations 1 through 29 and Level 2 Exercise Stations 31, 32, 37 through 41, 45. Senior courses must include at least 3, but not more than 5 of the Level 2 Stations.

Special Consideration for Pre-Jrs

1. Pre-Jr Classes shall consist of a circular course of no more than 8 exercises APDT Rally Level 1 Exercise Stations 1 through 8 and 19 through 21.
2. The parent/mentor of the team shall walk the course and explain all the exercises with the team prior to the run. The parent/mentor shall accompany the team during the run to encourage or assist the child, but may not actually handle the dog.
3. As in all Rally competition, ATTITUDE counts. This includes the attitude of the parent/mentor, the attitude of the Pre-Jr handler, and the attitude of the canine partner. Communications between parent/mentor and child in Pre-Jr as well as between handlers and canines shall be positive. Corrections of any kind are not allowed in a Rally ring.
4. Remember the purpose of running Pre-Jr events is to encourage participation in Rally by all family members. This class will allow the younger kids to have fun with their family dog, start to learn what is required to train a dog, and become familiar with the ring environment. Even the best performance dog needs to learn that training with a child, while it may be different than working for an adult, can be enjoyable and rewarding.

Scoring and Awards

1. All runs shall be scored and timed as in regular Rally classes. Maximum course time for JRs is five (5) minutes.
2. Qualifying runs shall be awarded a GOLD medal (neck medallion style). All other participants receive BRONZE medals. All medals are identical (size, ribbon color, etc) except for color.

3. All Pre JRs shall receive BRONZE medals.

Other Great Ideas To Add Fun To Your Rally Jr Trials

1. Give all JR and Pre-JR competitors a “goody” bag – bandanas for their dogs, coloring books, dog safety brochures, dog toys, etc.
2. Give prizes. Awards for the smallest dog, largest dog, youngest competitor, team who traveled furthest, hairiest dog, oldest dog, etc.

**Use your imagination on these ideas – kids love to get prizes and parents will appreciate the extra effort you’ve invested to make their children feel special while they are learning to compete.
It’ll keep ‘em coming back for more!**