

Probationary Guidelines for Dogs NZ Rally-O Judges And Prospective Judges

(effective 10th March 2022)

Important Note:

These are **guidelines** only. For all rules and regulations, consult your Dogs New Zealand (NZKC) rules.

Need Help?

If an Assessing Judge needs advice or wishes to clarify anything in these guidelines, or if you are a prospective judge and you want advice or clarification on any assessing matter:

- **Contact the Obedience Judges Association Rally-O Judge Appointments and Promotions Coordinator (rallyojudges@oja.co.nz). Please do not personal message or text.**

General Guidelines for All Rally-O Judging Probationaries

- It is desirable for two different venues and dates to be used so different teams, environments, and weather conditions are assessed.
- Probationaries can be done at a show/ribbon trial/ training day/ club day.
- It is up to the prospective judge to liaise with clubs to organise time etc.
- It is up to the prospective judge to organise enough dogs for each separate probationary.

Rule: The probationary judge must supply at least one original course.

- Most Assessing Judges agree that they would like to see an original course for each probationary.
- The printed course is usually sent to the Assessing Judge the week before the probationary so the Assessing Judge can assess the course design skills of the prospective judge.
- Any course changes or advice can be dealt with before the event.
- The Assessing Judge will send a copy of the Probationary Form to the prospective judge before the probationary. There is a copy included in this document.
- There is one qualified Assessing Judge in the ring assessing the prospective judge, for a minimum of 6 dogs at one event.
- At the end of the probationary, the Assessing Judge will discuss their observations with the prospective judge, highlighting what was successful as well as areas where they might need further experience and support.
- The Assessing Judge will forward a written copy of the probationary report to the OJA Rally-O Appointments and Promotions Coordinator (rallyojudges@oja.co.nz) as well as the prospective judge.

Novice, Advanced and Excellent Judges (in addition to above general guidelines)

At present, the following rules are the basic requirements for appointment to the Novice, Advanced and Excellent Panels.

Novice/Advanced/Excellent Rules: 8.14.1.3 / 8.14.3.2 / 8.14.4.2: “have successfully completed 4 probationary appointments under a minimum of 2 NZKC Rally-O panel judges permitted to judge the same level or higher, and will include the submission of at least 1 original Rally-O course for at least 1 probation.”

- Assessing starts when the prospective judge arrives at the venue and will include punctuality, appropriate clothing (coat, hat, etc.), and interaction with competitors and club officials. (Check break times).
- Prospective judge’s bag and preparedness are assessed.
 - (Do you have enough judging sheets, pens, etc.?)
- Course set up is assessed and interaction with stewards. The walkthrough is assessed and instructions to competitors (are they clear and concise?), answer questions from handlers. You don’t have to explain how to perform stations to handlers that have not trained or learned the signs. It’s helpful to have a copy of sign descriptions at the ring entrance for competitors to refer to.
- Judging of each competitor is assessed with the Assessing Judge checking the prospective judge’s understanding of the rules and their application in the ring.
- Dismantling the course is assessed. Is it tidily done with signs returned to host club in an organised fashion?
- Prizegiving is assessed. Has everyone needed for the prizegiving been located etc.?
- Is the prospective judge polite and encouraging to all competitors wanting their judging sheets after prizegiving?

Encore Judges (in addition to above general guidelines)

Encore Rule: 8.14.5.3: “Have successfully completed 2 probationary appointments within a twelve-month period under two different Dogs New Zealand Rally-O Excellent Panel Judges.”

Prior to application, an Excellent Panel Judge seeking promotion to the Encore Judges Panel must have met the minimum competitive criteria and been on the Excellent panel for at least two years.

It is recommended that the prospective judge sits the Encore Judge’s exam after successfully completing their probationary appointments.

The Assessing Judge will:

- Assess course design including accessibility for teams with differing abilities.
- Assess the prospective judge’s understanding of the minimum requirements and relevant penalties for the Leave and Wait signs.

All Dogs NZ Rally-O Judges must pay an annual judge’s license fee to Dogs NZ (NZKC) and an annual membership fee to the Obedience Judges Association.

Dogs New Zealand Rally-O

PROBATIONARY JUDGE REVIEW

Name:

Seeking Promotion To:

Probationary Dates:

Club Hosting Probationary:

Number of Participants:

Rating Scale: 1 = Unsatisfactory; 2 = Improvement/Development Required; 3 = Satisfactory;
4 = More Than Satisfactory

	FACTORS	RATING	COMMENTS
S E C T I O N A	Judging Knowledge: Understanding of Duties		
	Planning & Organising: a) Course Design		
	b) Course Preparation		
	Course Walkthrough: Effective interaction with participants		
	Judging Performance		
	Efficiency & Time Management		
	Problem Solving/Decision Making		
	Management of Stewards		
S E C T I O N B	Overall assessment of judge's performance:		
	Are you recommending the judge for promotion?		
	Describe the development plan for the judge indicating skills to be improved, strengths to be enhanced, etc., if necessary:		
	Any other comments: No		

Prepared & reviewed by: