



**NAMASCUSA  
Sanctioned Program**

# **SCORE Rally**

**Skilled Competition Obedience Rally – Excellent**

**Rules & Regulations**

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**August 2008  
Draft**

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## Revision History

07/26/2008	Cheryl Hass	First Draft
08/06/2008	Deborah Dulaney	Second Draft - General Formatting, Ribbons,

## Chapter 1 – SCORE Rally Overview

< SCORE Rally Description >

## Chapter 2 – Requirements

### Age

Dogs must be nine (9) months of age or older on the first day of the trial to compete in the Regular Skill levels.

Dogs must be six (6) months of age or older and eighteen (18) months of age or younger on the first day of the trial to compete in the Puppy/Junior/Challenged level.

Juniors must be eighteen (18) years of age or younger on the first day of trial to compete in the Puppy/Junior/Challenged level.

Handlers who are physically or mentally challenged may compete in the Puppy/Junior/Challenged level regardless of their age. Handlers' dogs must meet the minimum age requirement of six (6) months or more on the first day of the trial.

### Collars

Dogs must be shown in a flat, chain or martingale type collar, or a standard harness. Collars may have tags on them provided they do not interfere with the dog's performance. No prong, electronic, head halters, "no-pull" harnesses or severe training type devices may be used.

### Registration

In order to have NAMASCUSA track qualifying legs and titles your dog needs to either be registered with NAMASCUSA or have a NAMASCUSA Tracking Number.

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If your dog is currently registered with NAMASCUSA, you do NOT need a tracking number, use your registration number on the entry form. If your dog is not registered with NAMASCUSA you will need to apply for a tracking number if you want your legs tracked. Complete a separate NAMASCUSA Tracking Number Application for each dog you are registering. Please print clearly—this information will appear on all tracking records.

**Note: You only need ONE tracking number to compete in all NAMASCUSA performance venues.**

### **Chapter 3 – Scoring**

The dog/handler Team begins each competition with a perfect score of 200 points. The Team proceeds through the Rally course following the instructions spelled out on each of the course signs. The Judge indicates point deductions on the score sheet as faults occur. The minimum deduction shall be 1 point with higher deductions taken in 1-10 point increments as spelled out in the rules.

The leash should be held so there is no tension on the dog's collar when in heel position. It can be held in one or both hands. Leash and hand position may change during the course. Hand and body position should be relaxed and natural. The leash may be 4-6 feet as is comfortable for the Team.

#### **Start/Finish**

When the dog/handler Team is ready at the Start Line, the Judge shall give permission to start the course. Timing of the performance begins when the team crosses the Start Line and ends when they cross the Finish Line. Teams may NOT run across either Line. Judging begins when the team crosses the Start Line and ends when the Team concludes the Bonus.

#### **Scoring**

1. The Minimum deduction is 1 point per fault.
2. The Maximum deduction is 10 points per fault.
3. Dogs who are unmanageable and/or bark excessively will receive deductions based on the severity of the behavior. The Judge may excuse a dog from the ring for unmanageable behavior.
4. Unless otherwise noted in the judging/scoring guidelines, retries are allowed. In situations where the team has performed an error that requires the Judge to score their performance as Non-qualifying (NQ), the Retry will NOT erase the NQ. Otherwise, re-tries shall be scored as a 3 point deduction and shall 'erase' any deductions for errors previously made. It is considered a retry if the team passes an exercise sign without performing the exercise – then returns to it before performing the next exercise.

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**NOTE:** The Judge will set a MAXIMUM course time. The timer does NOT stop during re-tries and if the timer runs out, the opportunity to finish the course ends, resulting in an NQ/Time notation on the score sheet.

5. The handler may NOT use harsh verbal or physical corrections. If the Judge at his/her discretion deems a correction harsh, the team may be excused from the ring and receive an NQ/Harsh on the score sheet.
6. If a dog leaves the Rally ring the team will be excused and the Judge shall score that team's performance as NQ/Left on the score sheet.
7. If a Team goes off course (performs one or more exercises out of order), the Judge shall score that team's performance as NQ/Off on the score sheet.
8. For Skill Level One, if using treats, once the course is started, no further treats shall be given until a stationary exercise. Food and/or touch rewards are allowed when the team has completed a stationary exercise. An exercise is considered complete when the team has performed all the features of the exercise. Food may not be given once the team has begun to heel forward to the next exercise station. Handlers using food as a reward may not pass the Start Line with food in their hands – it must be hidden in their pockets. No treat bags or training devices (i.e. clickers) of any type are allowed in the ring.
9. 'Air cookie' luring is allowed in Skill level 1A only. However, any petting, touching, luring or food rewards that significantly interrupts the flow of the performance shall be scored accordingly. 'Significantly interrupts' shall be defined as impeding the natural forward flow of the movement of the team and deductions of 3 points or more may be made for these instances at the Judge's discretion.
10. Any dogs exhibiting signs of aggression that threaten the safety of other dogs or humans shall be excused from the competition at the discretion of the Judge. Refusal by the handler to comply shall result in removal of that dog and that handler's eligibility for any **SCORE** event for a period of 2 years. A second similar offense will result in permanent removal of that dog and that handler's eligibility for any **SCORE** event.
11. In **SCORE** Rally the dog is considered in heel position when the dog and handler are facing the same direction with the dog on the left and the handler can reach out and touch the dog's head.

### **Deductions**

#### **1 Point**

- Tight leash, each occurrence.
- Performing an exercise with the sign on the wrong side.

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- Additional cues

### **1+ Points depending on the severity of the error**

- Heeling faults – lagging, forging, bumping, wide, etc.
- Substantially out of position sits/downs/fronts/stands.
- Overly large circles/270's
- Slight movement during Stand exercises – 1 point per paw
- Failure to maintain pace change
- Dog barking, mouthing or jumping on handler

### **3 points**

- Excessive luring Skill Level 1A. Excessive defined: If the luring significantly interrupts the forward flow of the performance.
- Re-Try of an exercise or any portion of an exercise.
- Dropping the leash
- Dropping food
- Failure of the dog to move with the handler as specified in exercise description.
- Handler steps inside the 6 foot line when sending the dog over the jump – Level SR2 (this deduction becomes a 5 point deduction as listed below.)
- Sniffing a food bowl

### **5 POINTS**

- Handler is in front of jump/uprights when sending dog over – Level SR2
- Failure to sit (with the exception of the Halt-Sit)
- Failure to Down
- Failure to Stand
- Failure of the handler to pivot
- Incorrect finish
- Knocking over a cone or exercise sign by either dog or handler.
- Performing an obstacle exercise backwards or in the wrong direction.

### **1-10 POINTS**

- Failure to perform all the elements of an exercise properly.

### **NQ**

- Dog's failure to hold position during walk-around exercises.
- Touching the dog to prompt an exercise unless specifically allowed in exercise description.
- Dog refuses jump or any other exercise (i.e. afraid of the cones)
- Dog knocks jump over or displaces jump bar
- Failure to change pace
- Dog and handler pass on opposite sides of a cone.
- Dog shows a dedicated effort to get to food in bowls.
- Failure of the dog to sit in Halt Sit

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- Failure of the dog to down in Moving Down
- Dog aborts turn in Left About Turn.
- Dog anticipates/moves forward on recall exercises before being called.
- Failure of the dog to down during Halt, Leave Dog Down on Recall.
- Deduction totaling 10 or more points on any one exercise.
- Exceeding course time, unless an exercise modification for time has been approved.
- Dog leaves the ring.
- Dog exhibits aggression at any time during the course.
- Treats/touching are used in any manner other than what is allowed as outlined.
- Consistently tight leash
- Handler performs exercises out of sequence (Off Course).
- Handler misses an exercise
- The dog eliminates or vomits in the ring. The Team will be excused from the ring and will receive an NQ

### **Multiple Sign Exercise**

When an exercise requires more than one sign to complete, each exercise sign should be listed on the judge's scoresheet. Each sign should be scored separately.

### **Sign Placement**

Signs must be placed so they are on the handler's right with the following exceptions:

- Turns/180 pivots may be placed directly in the handler's path.
- Straight figure 8, offset figure 8, Spiral left, Serpentine, Send Over Jump signs are placed so they are on the handler's left.
- When halts and pivots are combined it may be necessary to place a sign so it is on the handler's left. Judges should make handlers aware of this during the Judge's briefing.

### **Bonus Exercise**

The Bonus exercise shall be offered as a method to accumulate points. No Points shall be deducted from the regular course score for failure to perform the Bonus correctly. Each level has several Bonus exercises. The Judge will choose the Bonus Exercise to be offered. Judges may only use one Bonus Exercise on a course. The Bonus exercise will be clearly identified on the course map.

The Bonus Exercise has a total point value of 10 points. If no deductions are taken, 10 points are added to the Team's score. If errors are made in the performance, deductions are taken off the total exercise value of 10 and the final number for the exercise is added onto the score. A score of zero on this exercise does not impact the Team's final score. However, if during the Bonus exercise any situations occur that would require the Judge to excuse the dog and score the run as

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an NQ – the team will receive a Non-qualifying score on their performance. This exercise is performed after the team crosses the finish line and the timer has stopped timing.

### **Chapter 4 – Levels**

#### **Skilled Level 1 – SL1**

Skilled Level 1 is performed on-leash with the exception of Bonus Exercises #1 and #3. The handler may remove the leash for these exercises or may have the dog drag the leash. A **Skilled Level 1 course consists of 18 – 20 exercise signs, exclusive of the Start and Finish exercise signs and the Bonus Exercise sign(s)**. Skilled Level 1 is divided into two classes: A and B. The A class is for teams who are working towards earning their Skilled Level 1 title. The B class is for teams that have earned their Skilled Level 1 title in the A class. Once a team has earned their Skilled Level 1 title in the A class, they may continue to compete in Skilled Level 1, but must do so in the B class.

#### **Skilled Level 2 – SL2**

< SL2 Description >

#### **Skilled Level 3 – SL3**

< SL3 Description >

#### **Puppy/Junior/Challenged Level – PJC**

This level of competition is intended to include human and canine youngsters as well as the physically or emotionally challenged in the fun of SCORE Rally. The goal is to provide a positive training, learning and competing experience to encourage all skill levels to participate.

#### **Competition Rules**

- All SCORE rules are in effect in the PJC Level.
- All PJC exercises will be performed on leash. The Bonus exercise may be performed with the leash dragging or off-leash.
- All Level 1 guidelines apply except as described below and with the exception that food may be given at any time during an exercise or between exercises.
- PJC will be judged by any approved SCORE Judge.
- PJC courses shall consist of 10-12 exercises chosen from Skill Level 1 Exercise Stations 1 through 21 plus Start, Finish and a Bonus exercise.
- Stationary exercises should not exceed 1/3 of the total number of exercises.
- The parent/mentor of the team has the option of walking the course and explaining all the exercises with the team prior to the run.

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- The parent/mentor may accompany the team during the run to encourage or assist the child, but may not actually handle the dog.
- Communications between parent/mentor, handler and canine shall be positive. Harsh corrections are not allowed as described in SCORE rules above.
- **SCORING:**
  - All runs shall be scored and timed as in regular SCORE classes. Maximum course time for PJC is 5 minutes.
  - Qualifying runs shall be awarded PJC Qualifying Ribbons

## Chapter 5 – Titles

### Skill Level 1 Title

- Three qualifying scores of 170 or higher, earned under two different judges.
- The Skill Level 1 Title is designated as SL1 and appears after the dog's name.

### Skill Level 2 Title

- Teams must earn a Skill Level 1 title before entering Skill Level 2.
- Three scores of 170 or higher, earned under two different judges are required.
- The Skill Level 2 title is designated as SL2 and appears after the dog's name.

### Skill Level 3 Title

- Teams must earn a Skill Level 2 title before entering Skill Level 3
- Three qualifying scores of 170 or higher, earned under two different judges are required.
- The Skill Level 3 title is designated as SL3 and appears after the dog's name.

### Puppy/Junior/Challenged

- Three qualifying scores of 170 or higher earned under two different judges in the Puppy/Junior/Challenged class are required.
- The Puppy/Junior/Challenged Level title is designated as PJC and appears after the dog's name.

### Championship Titles

Once a team has earned a Skill level title, they may continue to compete at that level in the B class for Championship titles. The Championship title designations appear after the dog's name.

### **Skill Level - Individual Championship Titles**

- Ten qualifying scores of 170 or higher are required to earn an Individual Level Championship Title.
- These are designated as **SCORE1** for Skill Level 1, **SCORE2** for Skill Level 2 and **SCORE3** for Skill Level 3.

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### **SCORCH Championship Title:**

Any dog/handler team that has earned a SCORE1, SCORE2 AND SCORE3 level title as well as an additional 10 QQ's (double Q's) at Skill Level 3B with a score of 190 or above will receive the title designation of **SCORCH** that will appear before the dog's name.

Note: QQ (double Q's) = Earning a qualifying score in 2 classes at the same trial.

### **PJC – Individual Championship Title**

- A Championship title may be earned in this class. The title designation is PJCX requires 5 additional qualifying scores of 170 or higher after earning your PJC Title.
- **The PJC title is NOT a pre-requisite for the SL1 title.**
- The PJC title may not be earned simultaneously with any other SCORE Rally title. Puppies may not be entered in any other class if they are being shown at the PJC level.

### **National Ranking Awards**

All teams competing in SCORE Rally events will be tracked and the Top 10 published annually in the NAMASCUSA newsletter the Mini Connection.

## **Chapter 6 – Hosting a Trial**

### **Ribbons**

- Qualifying ribbons will be awarded to all teams who earn a score of 170 or higher in each Skill level. Qualifying Ribbons will be Dark Green
- Qualifying ribbons will be awarded to all teams who earn a score of 170 or higher in the PJC level. Qualifying Ribbons will be Sapphire Blue.
- PLACEMENT Rosettes will be awarded to the top 4 high scoring teams in each Skill level.
  - In the event of tied scores, time is used to determine placement.
  - In the event of scores tied by points and time – a run-off of the tied teams will occur.

## **Chapter 7 – Judges**

### **Requirements**

- Must be a member in good standing with NAMASCUSA.
- Support the SCORE intent to encourage a positive relationship of mutual trust and respect between dogs and their owners.

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- Read and understand the SCORE Rules and Guidelines and be thoroughly familiar with all the exercises utilized in Skill Level 1 courses.
- Must qualify in 2 or more of the following areas:
  - Is currently a licensed or approved Judge in any other Rally or Obedience venue (AKC, APDT, ASCA).
  - Is currently a dog training professional with at least 4 years of experience as a professional trainer.
  - Has earned a minimum Novice/Level 1/CD equivalent title in any Rally or Obedience venue.

Applicants shall provide documentation of the above requirements

### **Chapter 8 – Course Guidelines**

< Course Guidelines >

### **Appendix A – Level 1 Signs**

Initially the SCORE Rally Program will utilize the APDT Level 1 signs – these signs will be reviewed and revisions made on an annual basis.