

Rally O Deductions Explained

1 point deduction for each of the following:

- Tight Lead – Any time the lead becomes tight on the course, during an exercise or between stations. Tight lead is taken when the dog makes the lead tight, if the handler pulled on the leash it would be Handler Error.
- Dog interfering with handler's forward motion – any time the handler must adjust their path to avoid the dog, or if the dog bumps into the handler, usually seen on left turns and pivots and on cone exercises when the dog is on the inside. If the dog does a poor sit or down so that they are partly in front of the handler, it could be scored this way.
- Poor sits, downs and stands – position is crooked, ahead or behind the handler enough that it would be scored a full point deduction in traditional obedience. This can be stations where the dog must sit in front of handler, be in heel position, or a finish.
- Slow or resistant response – Prompt response is required so if the dog doesn't sit, down etc on command, most judges will allow 2 or 3 seconds before scoring Slow to Respond.
- Touching a pylon, post or course distractions – A dog making a light touch, enough to dislodge a sign or post or distraction. If a handler knocks over a cone or sign it would usually be scored as Handler Error. Doesn't include a brush from a tail, unless in the situation where the dog wasn't allowed enough room by the handler to carry out the exercise, this would then be scored as Handler Error.
- Touching or hitting a jump without dislodgement - A dog making a light touch or tap, loud enough to be heard by the Judge but not enough to dislodge a bar. If a handler knocks into a jump without dislodging the bar, it would usually be scored as Handler Error.
- Out of position – usually scored if the dog is heeling wide, forging ahead or lagging enough to be scored a full point in traditional obedience. It could also be used for a crooked sit, down or stand.

3 point deduction for each of the following:

- Repeat of a station, maximum of two (2) re-tries allowed per run – the original score is erased and replaced with -3 for the retry. Most retries are taken because the station was Incorrectly Performed but sometimes handlers may just want to try to do it better, or they aren't sure if it was Incorrect Performance or not so they take a retry. Handlers are allowed to retry the same station twice.
- Pylon/post knocked over (on Figure Eight, Spiral and Serpentine) by a dog and/or handler – some judges may also deduct if the dog dislodges a sign. If the handler knocks over the cone or sign it is deducted as a Handler Error.
- Lack of control – indicates the dog has at least temporarily stopped working with the handler and is doing its own thing. The dog may have left the handler to sniff, check out a distraction, jumping up and down, lunging, spinning around or barking madly. This covers a wide variety of offenses.
- Loud command or intimidating signal
- Excessive barking – two or three small yaps is probably acceptable but if it happens at more than one station it may be excessive. A yap now and then throughout the course might be considered Excessive by the end of the course. Barking numerous times at any station could be considered Excessive. There is often a fine line between Excessive Barking and Uncontrolled Barking.
- Course Distractions knocked over or dislodged - Does not include running away with distraction in Offset Figure 8 as this would be NQ by Minimum requirements not met.

1 to 10 point deduction:

Handler Error applies from when the team enters the ring until Judging ceases at the end of the Course.

- Lack of teamwork – this is any time the dog and handler briefly cease to work together as a team. eg the dog sniffs or is distracted but returns to work when called. There is a fine line between Lack of Teamwork and Lack of Control

- Lack of Briskness – Rules state the team move continuously at a brisk but normal pace unless otherwise directed. Brisk is defined as keenly alive, alert, energetic. The deduction may be taken at the end for an overall lack of briskness in the performance or may be applied to one station.
- Handler error – knocking a sign, shuffling of feet, tight lead.

10 point deduction for each of the following:

- Incorrectly performed station (including Failure to clear a jump) – one or more principal parts of a station not performed or performed incorrectly including entering the cones on the wrong side, incorrect number of steps. Any Incorrect Performance can be retried (if available) if they have not attempted another station before they start the retry. If the team successfully completes the retry, the IP score is replaced by a Retry score, plus any other deduction that may happen during the retry. Failure to Clear a jump includes walking through or on a broad jump, baulking or going around a jump. All these are eligible for retry. Where a bar is knocked down, it should be IP but not eligible for retry (unless the bar jump is to be used again and then it would be NQ for Station Rendered Unusable).

Non-qualifying (NQ) scores shall be given for:

- Minimum requirements not met – an overall status that a qualifying score hasn't been reached.
- Dog unmanageable or uncontrolled barking – if a dog completely stops working and the handler can't manage the dog. If a dog barks at 50% or more of the stations it could be considered uncontrolled. Both are up to the Judge's discretion whether an NQ is given or a lesser deduction.
- Consistently tight leash – If the lead is tight more than 50% of the time in Novice
- Dog relieving itself in the ring
- Handler Error
- Station not attempted – a station skipped or missed before attempting the next station. If a handler realizes their mistake before they start the next station they may go back and do the missed station.
- Failure of a dog to go over a jump in the proper direction – if a dog runs by the jump the exercise can be retried. If it then comes back over the jump in the wrong direction, it would be NQ. If the dog takes the jump of their own on the course in either direction it would more likely be lack of Control
- Attempting more than two (2) retries - If the handler has lost count of how many retries they have already taken, they shouldn't try to ask the Judge. In Novice the Judge may give them assistance, but in higher grades the Judge will not communicate anything.
- Performing a station out of sequence – similar to Station Not Attempted. A station skipped or missed before attempting the next station. If a handler realizes their mistake before they start the next station they may go back and do the missed station.
- Where a station is rendered unusable - if the dog knocks/steps etc the jump then it is "Failure to Clear" (IP) however if that jump is to be used twice in the Excellent Class and the jump has been "damaged" in some way that it cannot be used properly the second time then it is "Station Rendered Unusable" (NQ). Station Rendered Unusable could also be in a situation where cones etc in weave twice are knocked out of position and can't be negotiated again on the way back. Does not include running away with distraction in Offset Figure 8 as this would be NQ by Minimum requirements not met.

Disqualification:

No points awarded. The dog is disqualified from all Trial Competition on the day and the Judge must provide a written report to the Member Body within 14 days - the only exception being instances where the disqualification was incurred as a non qualifying score.