

RALLY O - HINTS & TIPS

The “Call Front” Stations (Novice) Stations 13, 14, 15 & 16



13. Call Dog Front - Finish Right - Forward
14. Call Dog Front - Finish Left - Forward
15. Call Dog Front - Finish Right - Halt
16. Call Dog Front - Finish Left - Halt

Four different Stations - four different Signs. They might look confusing at first glance but they really aren't so hard to sort out.

The **first part** of the exercises – the Call Front – is performed exactly the same way in all of them.

The rules say “While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (**dog sits in front** and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position.”

Hint: Like all stations in Rally, don't rush this part, make sure the dog sits properly (failure to sit here will be -10 pts Incorrect Performance).

Hint: Take a few steps backwards to get them sitting nice and straight in front but too many steps might earn you a deduction.

Hint: You can say “Come” to your dog to let them know what is required – it's like a mini recall.

Hint: At this point take another look at the sign to double check the rest of the exercise.

NOTE: Even if Stations 13, 14, 15 or 16 appear in Advanced or Excellent they are performed exactly the same way ie. you can still take a couple of steps back to get the dog to sit in front.

The second part is which way to finish – either Finish Right (the “traditional” finish where the dog moves to the handler's right and walks around behind the handler) or the Finish Left (the “flip” finish where the dog moves straight to the handlers left).

Hint: This is very specific and failure to do the correct finish will result in an Incorrect Performance.

Hint: In this part you cannot move your feet, there is no step back to get the dog to finish.

The last part is whether the dog must sit in the heel position first or whether the handler starts moving forward straight away.

- The “Halt” stations are what we are used to from traditional obedience eg finish of the recall, retrieves etc. Most experienced obedience dogs will automatically finish and sit.
- For the “Forward” exercises, the rules say “As the dog clears the handler's path, the handler moves forward before the dog has completely returned to the heel position”.

Hint: The dog will be automatically out of position for a second or so until it can finish left or right and get back to heel. Judges won't penalize this automatic Out Of Position but if it takes too long for the dog to get back to heel then you will be penalized.

Hint: If the dog gets back or almost back to heel position before the handler moves then that will be classed as Handler Error (1 – 10 points depending on how long the handler waits before moving) but this isn't the principal part of the exercise so it won't be an IP. It could also depend on the breed of dog - a larger dog might have its head almost back in the heel position while its rear end is still in the handler's path.

Hint: Take small steps as you heel off so that the dog can catch up quicker. In Novice small steps will also stop the lead from going tight.

Hint: On the finish lefts – heel off on the right foot so that you don't come in contact with the dog as they are moving around your left leg - that could earn you a deduction.

We hope this clears up all your queries about the Novice Call Front exercises.

Rally O Working Party