RALLY O - HINTS & TIPS

Walk Throughs and Judges Briefings

Use your walk through time productively.   There are 2 purposes you need the walk through for: -
1. to set the course in your mind
2. to familiarise yourself with the exercises used.

1. Walk around the course to check if there are any "odd" entrances or exits to stations, especially around the spirals, weaves and figure 8s. These can be used by course designers to head the competitors off in just about any direction, so make sure you get your bearings in the walk through so you don't get lost during your run.   Check out the jump(s) – see which one is used, how much space between the jump(s) and the stations before and after. If you have a big dog or an excitable dog (or a big excitable dog) and the course is tight, you will have to be on the ball to call them back to heel after the jump. Also check if there is a heel past a jump. If you have a jump-crazy dog, you will have to make sure to keep their attention on you so they don't go over a jump when they aren't supposed to. And importantly, check the sign before the Finish. Because the Finish sign isn't numbered, lots of people get lost because they don't realise that Finish is the next sign. Shame to do a great run out only to ruin it right at the end.
2. REALLY read the signs – many of the signs are very similar and if you do the wrong one it's a -10 point Incorrect Performance. Many signs, especially in the higher levels, have 3 or 4 parts to the exercise (eg Halt, Call Front, Finish Left, Halt). Carry your Rules with you on your walk through and double check that you understand all the parts to the exercise. Miss even part of an exercise and it's an IP.

Many Judges are giving briefings especially in the higher classes. Make sure you stay around for the briefing because it could be vital information. If you are first on and need to get your dog, ask the Judge if there is anything you need to know. Judges briefings aren't tutorial sessions but they will answer general questions.

Good luck your Rallying.