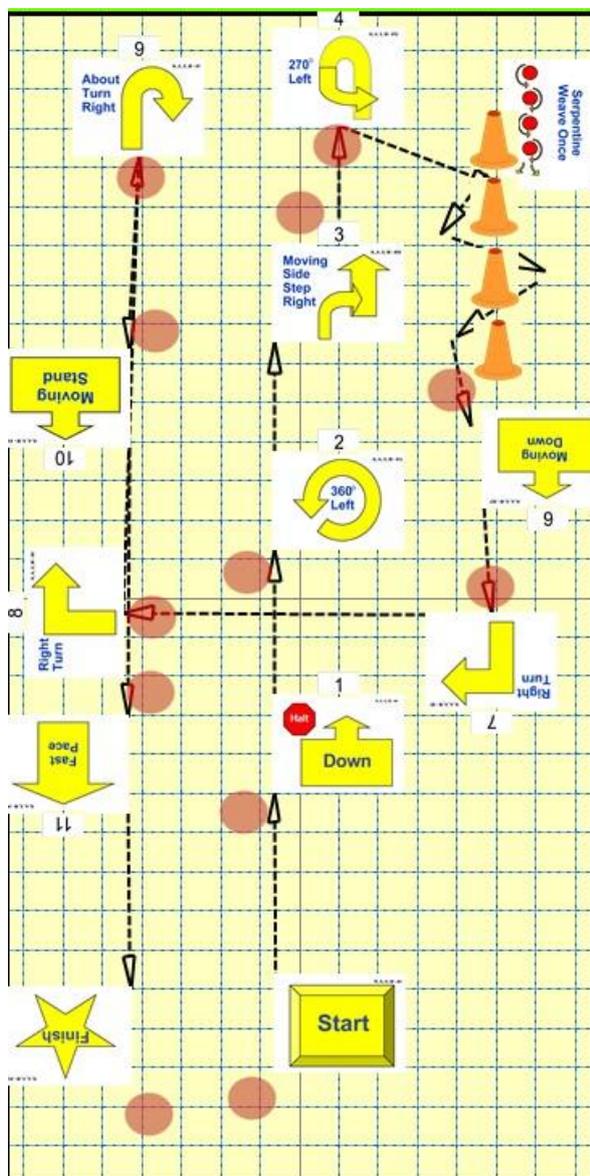


## Rally O Hints and Tips

### Where to perform that Station?



There is still a little confusion with newer handlers as to where to actually perform the exercises in relation to the sign / cone.

The Rules say, ***“Signs will be placed to the right of the Handler’s path except for ... change in direction, which ... will be directly in front of the Handler.”***

*Exercises using cones may require entry with the sign on the left. The sign will be placed at the first cone.*

*Except for exercises requiring entry with the sign on the left, exercises are performed near the designated signs, **either directly in front, or in the front and to the left** of said signs. (Signs 20 and 40 are performed just past the sign).”*

So what does all that mean? If you follow the sample course to the left, you will see that the arrows show the correct path you should take. Exercises should be carried out where the red circle is, (for the most part roughly where the arrow heads appear on the map) .

There is a nice straight path from the Start and past stations 1, 2 and 3. Note that Station 2 is the 360 Left – this is **NOT** a change of direction sign – once you complete the exercise you continue in the same direction – so the exercise should be carried out with the sign on the right as with most other signs.

Station 3 is Exercise #20 which is performed after the sign and while not an obvious change of direction, your path will move to the right.

Stations 4, 7, 8 and 9 are the change of direction stations in this course. If you notice the arrows on the course map, then you will see that the signs should be right in your path as you approach so the exercises are done directly in front of the station.

Of course, sometimes it doesn’t work out so neatly because there are signs, cones and other “obstacles” on a Rally O course that might get in the way so the path may have to veer slightly around them.

As per the Rules, you also must (for most stations) carry out the exercises **before the sign**, if you go past the sign you should be scored an IP. Dogs Qld also recommend that the “team” execute the station within 600mm of the sign – this means that **either** the handler or the dog should complete at least part of the exercise within 600mm of the sign (eg if it is a Right Turn then the Handler wouldn’t need to get too close to the sign as they would crowd the dog into the sign holder and lose points for Handler Error).

**This includes the Start sign**, make sure you and your dog are clear of the sign before you start. However (just to be confusing) make sure you go completely past the Finish sign before you stop and congratulate yourself 😊

The Qld Recommendations, along with other articles and information, can be found on the Rally O DVD if you haven't bought one yet. Information for the DVD can be found on the Obedience Qld website at [www.obedienceqld.org/DVD.htm](http://www.obedienceqld.org/DVD.htm)

Also don't forget once you get your Novice title that you have to get your dog **measured** before you can compete in Advanced A. And when filling out entries, some entry forms have "Height at Shoulder" and some have "Jump Height". The rules actually say "Jump Height" so please be clear which height you are using to help make the Trial Secretaries job easier.

Hope this helps

Rally O Sub Committee