



DOCOF

Dog Obedience Clubs
of Florida

DOG OBEDIENCE CLUBS OF FLORIDA ANNUAL COMPETITION/TOURNAMENT RALLY RULES & REGULATIONS

PURPOSE:

The purpose(s) of the Dog Obedience Clubs of Florida (DOCOF) Annual Competition is to provide the opportunity for handlers and dogs to represent their organization in competition as a team. These rules and Regulations constitute the basis of the Competition. However, the success of the event relies on the integrity and good sportsmanship of the competing member organizations.

At the discretion of the DOCOF Board, DOCOF may offer a **Rally Special Event Trial**, which follows American Kennel Club (AKC) Rules and Regulations. The purpose of The Special Event Trial is to allow exhibitors participating in the DOCOF Rally Team competition, to also have their scores in the DOCOF classes, count toward AKC titles. The DOCOF Special Event Trial, hereafter referred to as the S.E.T., will allow dogs that have earned qualifying scores in the regular classes to count toward AKC titles at the **Novice, Intermediate or Advanced, Excellent and Master or Choice levels**. Each exhibitor's scores will count as a DOCOF Team score and an Individual score for AKC.

GENERAL:

The DOCOF competition will be held Labor Day Weekend in conjunction with the DOCOF Annual Meeting. **The Rally S.E.T will be held on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend.** The DOCOF Board also reserves the right to limit entries.

The S.E.T. must be hosted by an AKC approved Member or Licensed Club in coordination with DOCOF. The DOCOF Board will determine which AKC Club will act as the "Host".

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Article 1 – Rally REGULATIONS:

The current American Kennel Club Rally Regulations govern any rules not stated herein.

- 1.1 S.E.T Rules and Regulations for Rally:**
- 1.2 Classes offered for the S.E.T. will be the "B" classes for Novice, Intermediate or Advanced, Excellent plus Master or Choice. Exhibitors will be allowed to enter Advanced and Excellent for a RAE title as well as Advanced, Excellent and Master for a RACH title.**

Article 2 – ELIGABILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- 2.1 Any recognized Member Organization of DOCOF in good standing may enter.**
- 2.2 No individual exhibitor entries will be accepted except for S.E.T competition.**
- 2.3 Only exhibitors that are entered on a DOCOF team may enter and compete in the S.E.T. event.**

Article 3 – ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Only dogs that meet the requirements of Chapter 1; Section(s) 12 and 13 of the AKC Rally Regulations will be allowed to enter. An official AKC Rally Entry Form must be completed to enter the S.E.T.

Rally:

- 3.1 Each DOCOF Member Organization may enter a maximum of three (3) teams.
 - a. A full team consists of four (4) dogs, one dog (1) at each level of Rally class offered.
 - b. Partial teams of fewer than one (1) dog per class be entered.
- 3.2 A second or third team may be entered only if the following requirements are met.
 - a. When sending a second team, the Member Organization's first team must consist of four (4) dogs, one (1) dog at each level being offered.
 - b. When sending a third team, both of the Member Organization's first and second team must consist of four (4) dogs, one (1) dog at each level being offered.
 - c. The second or third team may then be a partial team as defined in 3.1.b above.
- 3.3 The method utilized in selecting individual exhibitors and dogs to represent a Member Organization is not a part of these Rules and Regulations; however, the requirements of Article 4 below must be adhered to.
- 3.4 Each club, organization or individual will have the option of designating **one (1) dog and handler for each level (one (1) Novice, one (1) Intermediate or one (1) Advanced, one (1) Excellent, one (1) Master, or one (1) Choice regardless of the number of teams being sent) as an emergency substitute, to be used only in the event that a dog showing at the same level on the same team are unable to compete.** The substitute will take the place of one (1) of the absentee entries, and the information in the exhibitor list will not be changed. An entry fee will not be charged for listing the emergency substitutes, whether or not any are used to substitute for a team member at the Tournament. If a substitute is used, it is the Team Captain's responsibility to notify the Tournament Secretary as soon as possible. If the substitution occurs on the day of the Tournament, the Team Captain will also report the change to both the scheduled ring and the group ring for that entry. If the Club, organization, or individual chooses to take advantage of this option, emergency substitutes must be listed on a separate sheet of paper and sent in with the official entry form. All of the information required for regular entries must be provided for the substitutes, including jump height. All rules related to eligibility (both dog and handler) also apply to substitutes.
- 3.5 **Team Unification:** If two (2) Member Clubs and/or Organizations determine that they have inadequate resources to field a full first DOCOF Team, they may field a united ADHOC team based upon the following.
 - a. Both Organizations are in good standing with DOCOF.
 - b. All dogs and handlers proposed to be on the united team appear on the current membership roster submitted to DOCOF.
 - c. All dogs meet all other requirements of DOCOF rules.

The Unified Team will exist for one (1) year only and must reapply and be approved by the Board of Trustees annually. A unification team may field up to two (2) teams.

Unification is solely for the purpose of fielding a team and does not otherwise impact the forming organization membership or responsibilities.

The unified team will pick a name that represents both organizations, such as ABC Dog Training Club/XYZ Rally Team.

- 3.6 The S.E.T. will be limited to Exhibitors that currently belong to a Florida Club or Organization that are Members in good standing with DOCOF and are entered in the Team Competition for DOCOF. **Only dogs that meet the requirements of Chapter 1; Section(s) 12 and 13 of the AKC Rally Regulations will be allowed to enter the SET. An official AKC Rally Entry form must be completed to enter the S.E.T.**

Article 4 – Exhibitors:

- 4.1 Exhibitors must be in good standing with whatever Registry they represent. No one shall be eligible to compete for a Member Club unless they have been a member of the Member Club for a minimum of **three (3) months**. No one shall be eligible to compete for any Member Organization (Not requiring membership) unless they have been training with the organization for a minimum period of **three (3) months**.
- a. All Member Clubs will send the current membership roster to the Membership Chairperson by **June 1st** of each year. Schools and other Member Organizations, which do not offer memberships, shall send a current roster of people training with the organization to the Membership Chairperson by **June 1st** each year. No one shall be eligible to exhibit for the Club if they are not a member of a Member club for a period of **three (3) months**. No one shall be eligible to exhibit for any other Member Organization unless they have been training regularly (at least once per month) with that organization for DOCOF.
- b. Attendance at a seminar given by a member of a Member Organization or attending a seminar hosted by a Member Organization does not establish a training relationship. Seminar, or Workshop attendance alone, does not constitute eligibility, nor does it count as training with regard to the Member Organization for DOCOF.
- c. In the event that an exhibitor's eligibility is brought into question, the required roster sent prior to June 1 of that year will be used to establish eligibility. If a roster has not been presented by June 1, the DOCOF Board of Trustees will have full authority to determine eligibility. The DOCOF Board of Trustees may request documentation as they deem necessary.
- 4.2 An exhibitor may only represent one (1) Member Organization
- 4.3 An exhibitor may not show more than two (2) different dogs. An exhibitor may show two (2) different dogs at the same level/class, or different levels/classes for the same Member Organization.
- a. Exceptions may be made when substituting for another team member in cases of extreme hardship or serious illness. The DOCOF Board must approve all exceptions.
- 4.4 A dog must be shown by the same Exhibitor through all the exercises in each class entered.
- 4.5 A dog must be handled by its owner(s) or immediate family. Exceptions for cases of hardship may be granted upon the decision of the DOCOF Board.
- 4.6 There shall be no teams made up of exhibitors selected at large strictly to enter a competitive team at DOCOF.

Article 5 – Dog Eligibility:

- 5.1 A dog is not required to have any title for the Rally Team Class entered.
- 5.2 A dog must compete at a level equal to or higher than its highest title awarded by any registry. **Titles earned on or before the closing date are not considered.** Dogs with Alternative Titles must compete at the highest title awarded in that Alternative Titling process or the highest title achieved in Regular classes whichever is greatest.
- 5.3 A dog may be entered for one (1) Member Organization only.
- 5.4 A dog may be entered in one (1) class only.
- 5.5 Entries are not restricted as to breed or sex.
- 5.6 Entries of dogs from other registries or non-purebred dogs are allowed **for DOCOF.**

- 5.7 **Only dogs that meet the requirements of Chapter 1; Sections 12 and 13 of the AKC Rally Regulations will be allowed to enter the S.E.T. An official AKC Rally Entry Form must be completed to enter the SET.**
- 5.8 **If DCOF elects to hold a Special Event Trial (SET), all dogs must meet Chapter 1; Section 12 & 13 of the AKC Rally Regulations.** Dogs not registered with the AKC are not allowed to enter the SET.

Article 6: - Entries:

- 6.1 **The DCOF Board reserves the right to limit entries based on the capacity of the hosting facility.**
- 6.2 The entry fee will be determined each year by DCOF at the annual meeting.
- 6.3 No entries will be accepted unless accompanied by the appropriate entry fee.
- 6.4 Entry fee checks shall be payable to DCOF.
- 6.5 **Team** entries shall be submitted on the official DCOF entry form. Entries must be signed by an officer or delegate of the Organization, signing under penalty of disqualification that the information on the entry is correct. **Teams must also complete an Official AKC Entry Form. This provides necessary information to the Trial Secretary.**
- 6.6 No entry will be accepted without at least one full day worker per team (or two half-day volunteer workers per team), one volunteer worker for set-up and one volunteer worker for tear-down.

Article 7: Closing Date, Judges and Catalog:

- 7.1 The closing date to receive entries, **for DCOF Rally and the Rally S.E.T,** shall be **July 15**. The closing date to receive entries shall be set by the Tournament Secretary, with the approval of the DCOF Board members. Entries cannot be accepted after the closing date. Changes to entries will be considered if requests are made in writing to the Tournament Secretary, with the approval of the DCOF Board, prior to three (3) weeks before the Tournament date. Entries cannot be changed in any way after the three (3) week deadline. No telephone or fax entries will be accepted.
- 7.2 DCOF shall have the sole jurisdiction of the selection of judges.
- 7.3 If only a "DCOF Rally Team" event is offered, a catalog will not be printed, but an exhibitor list will be published.
- 7.4 **If a Rally S.E.T is being offered in conjunction with the "DCOF Rally Team" event, a catalog will be printed listing all exhibitors entered in the S.E.T and listing exhibitors entered in the DCOF Rally Team competition.**

Article 8: Judging:

- 8.1 Entries will be assigned randomly between the Judges for each class.
- 8.2 All judging will be according to AKC Regulations except as noted in these Competition rules.
- 8.3 The team having the highest score from the possible 400 points will be declared the State Highest Scoring Team.
- 8.4 In the event of a "Tie Score" for Highest Scoring Team, the team with the lowest combined time will be declared the winner.

Article 9: Dress

Club patches, shirts, or uniforms may be worn in the rings, if a team desires to do so. Titles may not be displayed

Article 10 AWARDS:

Only team members who actually participate will be eligible for awards. **The awards for the S.E.T will follow AKC Regulations.**

The following DCOF Rally Team awards will be presented: **Highest Scoring Team, 2nd. through 4th place team. The following individual awards shall be awarded: 1st through 4th place in Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Excellent, Master and Choice.** Awards for the Rally S.E.T. shall follow AKC Regulations for the classes that are offered.

Article 11 No Score:

Any dog that fouls the ring, or dog or handler found guilty of conduct that would call for excusing the dog or handler under American Kennel Club rules, will receive no score.

Article 12 ABSENTEES:

Team Captains must report absentees of team members for both the individual exercises and group stays. If an exhibitor is missing when the armband number is called there will be no attempt to locate the exhibitor.