

What it takes to be Obedient

BRENDA PHILLIPS EXPLAINS THE CLASSES

Differences between various entry-level Obedience and Rally Classes

Entry level class	On leash?	Verbal praise allowed?	Other dogs in the ring?	Can my dog earn titles?
Novice Obedience	50%	Penalized	Long stays	Yes, CD
Veterans	50%	Penalized	Long stays	No
Wildcard Novice	50%	Encouraged	Long stays	No
Pre-Novice	50%	Penalized	None	Yes, PCD
Beginner Novice	Mostly on	Some is ok	None	Yes, BN
Sub-Novice	100%	Penalized	Long stays	No
Rally Novice	100%	Encouraged	None	Yes, RN
Rally Novice Pairs	100%	Encouraged	Your partners	No
Rally Relay	100%	Encouraged	Your partners	No

See <http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf> for complete regulations

Traditional Obedience

Novice Obedience The Novice class is for Basenjis that have not earned the title of Companion Dog (CD). The exercises are: Heeling on Leash including a Figure 8, Stand for Exam, Heel Off-Lead, a Recall, and long group Sit and Down exercises. Extra commands, signals or praise like “good boy!” while performing an exercise is penalized. Re-trying of exercises is not allowed. Qualifying Scores are required for the awarding of ribbons and prizes. The class winner is eligible for High in Trial.

Veterans Class The Veterans class is for Basenjis that have an obedience title and are at least seven years old on the date of the trial.

The exercises will be performed, judged, and scored as in the Novice class. Qualifying scores will *not* be required for the awarding of ribbons and prizes.

Wild Card Novice The Wild Card Novice class is for any Basenji that is capable of performing the Novice exercises. No title is required to enter. The Novice exercises will be performed, judged, and scored as in the regular Novice class, except that verbal praise during the exercises is to be encouraged and not penalized. (Good, yes, nice, super, great and atta boy are some examples of praise that would be allowed.) Handlers may give additional commands but they will be penalized accordingly. Each handler may

choose to select one exercise as a Wild Card at check in. The exhibitor will have the option of performing the selected wild card exercise, but will receive the full point value regardless of how the dog performs. Qualifying scores will *not* be required for the awarding of ribbons and prizes.

Pre-Novice *new class July 1, 2013*

The class previously known as Pre-Novice is now Sub-Novice. Pre-Novice is a new class where Basenjis can earn the title of PCD. The Pre-Novice exercises will be performed, judged, and scored as in the regular Novice class, except that instead of group stay exercises, there is a Sit Stay or Down Stay while the handler walks around the perimeter of the ring. (Sit or Down to be determined by the judge on the day). As this is a titling class, Qualifying scores will be required for the awarding of ribbons and prizes.

Beginner Novice The Beginner Novice class is open to all Basenjis, and is a transition from Rally to traditional Competition Obedience. Heeling is on leash, performed to a numbered course as in Rally, except the Figure 8 which is the same as Novice Obedience. Other different exercises are: Sit for Exam, Sit-Stay while handler walks around the ring, and a short Recall without a “return to heel.” Judging and scoring is as in Novice, except a single phrase of praise or encouragement by the handler will be allowed without penalty. Extra commands or signals will be penalized. Qualifying scores will be required for the awarding of ribbons and prizes.

Sub Novice Class (was known as Pre-Novice before July 1, 2013) The Sub Novice class shall be for Basenjis that have not received a third qualifying score in a Novice class prior to the closing of the trial. The Sub-Novice exercises will be performed and judged as in the regular Novice class, except that the dogs will perform all exercises on leash, which should



BOBBIE EMEL

be six feet in length. Qualifying scores will not be required for the awarding of ribbons and prizes.

Rally Obedience

Rally Novice Class This is the entry level of Rally, open to all Basenjis that have not earned a qualifying score in Rally Advanced. Teams will be required to perform one of many defined exercises in a self-paced, numbered course designed by the judge. Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience. Communication between handler and dog is encouraged and perfect heel position is



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not required, but there should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler. Handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement. Multiple commands and/or signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler’s arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. The handler may not touch the dog or make physical corrections. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands or intimidating signals will be penalized. Qualifying scores are required for the awarding of ribbons and prizes.

Rally Novice Pairs Class. Rally Pairs class consists of competition by one handler working two Basenjis (coupled or unattached to

each other) at one time through a novice-level rally course. Scores will be based on a possible 200 points, with ties being broken by time. All stations will be counted with a point value. The maximum point value that can be deducted at any one station will be 10 points per dog (20 total points). There will not be any NQs awarded for a performance. It is possible for a team to receive a negative score. All other rally rules and regulations will apply for the Novice class level offered as a non-regular class. Qualifying scores are not required for the awarding of ribbons and prizes.

Rally Relay This BCOA defined Non-Regular class will be for teams of any 3 dogs and handlers that are eligible under AKC regulations. Four dogs may be entered, one to be considered an alternate for which no entry fee will be required. A separate official entry form must be completed for each dog, including the alternate dog if one is listed. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. All exercises are performed on leash. The Rally Relay course will be created from the Rally Novice exercises and will consist of 15 or 16 stations. The members of the team will wait near their assigned stations for the pass of the baton. The first dog and handler team perform the first five stations on the course while carrying a small baton. The second dog and handler team performs the 5th station in tandem with the first team as the baton is passed, and the second team then performs stations 6 through 10. The third team performs the 10th station in tandem with the second team as the baton is passed, and the third team then performs the rest of the stations, finishing the course. This class will be judged and scored as in the Rally Novice class. If both dog and handler teams have an error on the exercise where a baton is passed, both errors would be scored. In the event of a tie for placements, time will be used as a tiebreaker. Qualifying scores will not be required for the awarding of ribbons and prizes.

“A” versus “B” divisions The titling classes are divided into “A” and “B” divisions for the sake of placements only, otherwise the classes are conducted and scored the same. Which class to enter is generally based on experience. The rules vary by class, and there are exceptions based on how recently the title was earned—check the regulations to be sure. <http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf> 🐾



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