

Regulations for the Nordic Rally Obedience Championship

The regulations have been compiled by the Nordic Kennel Union (NKU) Committee for Rally Obedience with representatives from DKK, FKK, NKK and SKK.

The regulations have been approved by NKU/AU in Oslo, Norway on 14.2.2019.

For Nordic Championships to be a championship competition, at least three (3) Nordic countries must participate.

Invitation

The invitation including date, place, entry fee and other necessary information regarding the competition should be sent to the respective kennel clubs no later than six (6) months before the date of the competition.

The invitation must clearly indicate the national regulations or restrictions of the host country regarding participation or entering the country. The detailed information should be unambiguous and available.

The invitation shall include the last date for entry, but the organizer must accept changes on already entered teams up till three (3) weeks prior the competition.

The practical details of the competition must be sent to the respective kennel clubs three (3) months before the competition by the secretary of the Nordic Kennel Union.

If the host country has a rule that is not covered in the Nordic Championship regulations but will apply to the Nordic Championship held in that country, it must be mentioned in the invitation.

Judges and judging

The Nordic Championships is judged by four (4) judges, the chief judge being from the host country. The judges are appointed by the NKU Committee for Rally Obedience.

Judges for Nordic Championships should have sufficient training and must have a broad experience in judging Rally Obedience and be licensed by the kennel club of their own country.

Judges must understand and speak English. All commands and instructions at Nordic Championships must be given in English.

Judges are not permitted to judge family members as handlers or dogs owned by themselves, family members or relatives such as children, parents, grandparents, grandchildren, brothers, sisters or in-laws. Neither are they allowed to judge members or residents of their household.

If a dog, which has been bred by a judge or has been living in the judge's household within one year prior to the competition, has been registered in the competition, the judge cannot act as a judge in this specific competition.

In case of a possible complaint against judging during Nordic Championships, any decision made by the judges is final and undisputable.

Judges' traveling costs

The traveling costs within their own country of the invited judges and secretaries, including flight costs to the country holding the competition, are covered by the national kennel club, or by an equivalent party, of the judge/secretary. Costs (transportation, accommodation, meals, fees etc.) within the host country must be paid by the arranging country.

Eligibility to compete and represent a country

Dog

Eligibility to participate in the competition is defined by the regulations of the dog's home country and those of the country where the competition takes place.

The dog must be at least 18 months old on the first day of the championship.

Only dogs registered with the studbooks/appendix recognized by the FCI can take part.

The dog must have been registered with the studbook or appendix of the country for which it will compete for a minimum of 12 months.

Handler/Owner

The handler must be a member of a national organisation of the country he/she represents that is recognized by the FCI.

The handler must have the nationality of the country or must have his/her legal residence for a minimum of 12 months in the country for which the dog will compete.

The owner must have the nationality of the country or must have his/her legal residence for a minimum of 12 months in the country for which his/her dog will compete.

Handler's obligations

Handlers must follow the regulations and directions as instructed.

The judge may disqualify a handler from the competition if he or she does not abide by the regulations or behaves in an unseemly way. It is forbidden to punish the dog. The judge's decision is final, and no competitor shall impugn the decisions of the judge.

Barbed or electric collars and other constraining devices or means, such as muzzles are forbidden. This restriction begins from the veterinary check prior to the competition and is valid until the end of the competition.

The competition

The Nordic Championship competition includes a team competition and an individual competition.

The Rally Obedience exercises in the Nordic Championship competition are based on a combination of exercises used in the highest competition class in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. This exercise set with its regulations, guidelines, exercise descriptions, deduction and judging guidelines forms a Rally Obedience Nordic Class.

The instructions regarding the competition are found in the competition guidelines and the Appendix 1.

General regulations

All competitors must follow the regulations of the hosting country regarding, for example, cropped and docked dogs, anti-doping, vaccinations, aggressiveness, bitches in season or in breeding.

Health

Dogs that are ill or injured (includes blind, taped, stitched or bandaged) are not allowed to participate, as well as dogs that are aggressive.

Aggressiveness / disqualification

Aggressive dogs are not allowed to enter the competition premises. The judge will disqualify any dog that attacks or attempts to attack a person or another dog. The incident must be reported to the kennel club represented by the dog and the kennel club of the host country. If the duration of the event is more than a day, the disqualification is valid also for the other days and thus the dog cannot compete.

Bitches in season and in breeding

Bitches in season may participate.

Bitches expected to give birth within 30 days and bitches that have given birth less than 75 days before the competition date must be excluded.

Neutered male dogs/bitches

Neutered dogs are allowed to compete, with the exception of chemically neutered male dogs.

APPENDIX 1. RALLY OBEDIENCE NORDIC CHAMPIONSHIP

This is an appendix to the Regulations for the Nordic Rally Obedience Championship. This appendix is valid until 31.12.2019.

Nordic Championship competition

The Nordic Championship consists of a team championship and an individual championship. The length of the competition is two (2) days. On the first day, there are two rounds for all participants. These rounds define the team results and are the first two results for the individual championship. On the second day, there is one round for all the participants which is the individual final.

Each country can enter one team. A team consist of five (5) competitors and a named reserve.

Should a country enter less than five (5) competitors, the team will be able to compete, but will receive zero points for the empty spaces in the team competition.

The Nordic Rally Obedience Championship Competition is organized by the Nordic country's kennel club or by an equivalent party in a rotating order as follows: Denmark – Sweden – Norway – Finland. The order may be changed due to special circumstances.

Entry fee

The country organizing the competition defines the possible entry fee. The entry fee cannot exceed 300 euros per participating team.

Judges

The judging team at Nordic Championships consists of four (4) judges, one from each country: Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. These judges will judge all the rounds.

Nordic Class

The Rally Obedience exercises in the Nordic Championship competition are based on a combination of exercises used in the highest competition class in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. The exercises have been divided into different categories depending on their level of difficulty: 1 point, 2 points, 3 points and 4 points. A Nordic Championship course must consist of 18 - 20 exercises, of which at least three are from level 2, three from level 3 and five from level 4.

This exercise set with its regulations, guidelines, exercise descriptions, deduction and judging guidelines forms a Rally Obedience Nordic Class which applies to the Nordic Championship competition.

The method how an exercise is performed may differ from national rules.

Dog's equipment in the competition ring

Only ordinary collars (buckled, non-slip collars) are permitted in the competition ring, ie. retriever leashes are not permitted

Blankets, mantles, harnesses, raincoats, shoes, stockings, bandages, tapes, etc., on the dog are forbidden during the performance.

It is allowed to use small bows or bands on dog's fur to keep the fur away from the dog's eyes. These accessories can only be used on dog's head or ears.

The competition ring

The ring must be at least 400 square meters in size without obstacles. The ring must be clearly marked with low fences or with ring tape. The indoor ring should be entirely covered with a non-slip surface.

Obstacle height

Obstacle height is dependent on dog's height.

Dog's height	Obstacle height
< 30 cm	10 cm
< 40 cm	20 cm
< 50 cm	30 cm
50 cm >	40 cm

Descriptions of the Nordic Class exercises

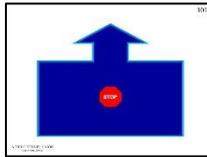
All exercises can be performed with the dog on the left or the right side of the handler.

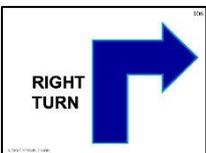
Fluent exercises from 1 point signs (106-116) can be performed in slow pace or fast pace. The sign before the fluent 1 point signs decides which pace the exercise is performed in.

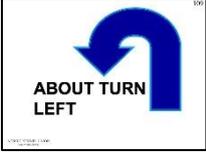
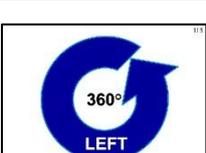
All exercises in which the dog is directed to the front of the handler, end with the dog on the left as instructed in the exercise.

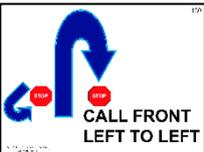
	START. The dog sits at the handler's left or right side. When completed, the team moves forward.
	FINISH. The course is finished when the team has passed this sign. The team leaves the competition area in normal pace.

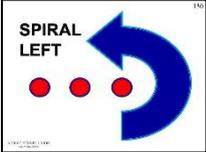
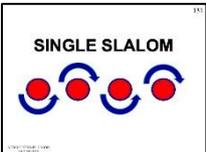
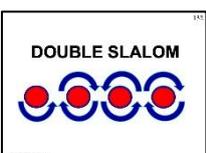
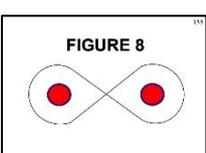
1 POINT

	101. STOP The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. When completed, the team moves forward.
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	<p>102. STOP - DOWN The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The dog is directed to a down position. The dog stays down until the team moves forward.</p>
	<p>103. STOP - DOWN - SIT The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The dog is directed to a down position, followed by a sit position. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward.</p>
	<p>104. STOP – WALK AROUND The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The handler walks forward around the dog, back to the side of the dog and makes a stop. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward.</p>
	<p>105. STOP – DOWN – WALK AROUND The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The dog is directed to a down position. The handler walks forward around the dog, back to the side of the dog and makes a stop. The dog stays down until the team moves forward.</p>
	<p>106. RIGHT TURN 90° tight turn to the right.</p>
	<p>107. LEFT TURN 90° tight turn to the left.</p>
	<p>108. ABOUT TURN RIGHT 180° tight turn to the right.</p>

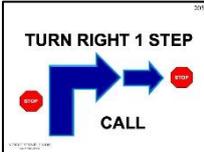
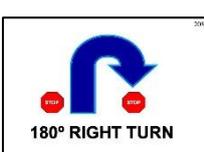
	<p>109. ABOUT TURN LEFT 180° tight turn to the left.</p>
	<p>110. LOOP RIGHT The team loops right crossing the original path.</p>
	<p>111. LOOP LEFT The team loops left crossing the original path.</p>
	<p>112. 270° RIGHT 270° tight turn to the right.</p>
	<p>113. 270° LEFT 270° tight turn to the left.</p>
	<p>114. 360° RIGHT 360° tight turn to the right.</p>
	<p>115. 360° LEFT 360° tight turn to the left.</p>

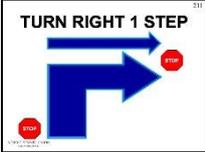
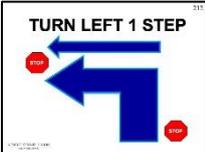
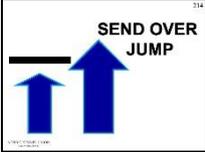
	<p>116. TURN AROUND DOG BEHIND</p> <p>The handler makes an about turn to the left, while the dog turns to the right, moving around the handler and back to the heel position to continue moving with the handler in the opposite direction.</p> <p>Right handling: The handler makes an about turn to the right, while the dog turns to the left, moving around the handler and back to the heel position to continue moving with the handler in the opposite direction.</p>
	<p>117. CALL FRONT - STOP - RIGHT TO LEFT</p> <p>The handler stops, and the dog is directed to sit in front of the handler. After that the dog is directed to the handler's right and behind the handler to the left side. The team then moves forward without stopping.</p>
	<p>118. CALL FRONT – STOP - LEFT TO LEFT</p> <p>The handler stops, and the dog is directed to sit in front of the handler. After that the dog is directed to the handler's left side. The team then moves forward without stopping.</p>
	<p>119. CALL FRONT – STOP - RIGHT TO LEFT - STOP</p> <p>The handler stops, and the dog is directed to sit in front of the handler. After that the dog is directed to the handler's right and behind the handler to the left side. The dog sits before the team moves forward.</p>
	<p>120. CALL FRONT – STOP - LEFT TO LEFT - STOP</p> <p>The handler stops, and the dog is directed to sit in front of the handler. After that the dog is directed to the handler's left side. The dog sits before the team moves forward.</p>
	<p>121. STOP - CALL FRONT – STOP - RIGHT TO LEFT - STOP</p> <p>The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The dog is directed to sit in front of the handler. After that the dog is directed to the handler's right and behind the handler to the left side. The dog sits before the team moves forward.</p>
	<p>122. STOP - CALL FRONT – STOP - LEFT TO LEFT - STOP</p> <p>The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The dog is directed to sit in front of the handler. After that the dog is directed to the handler's left side. The dog sits before the team moves forward.</p>

	<p>130. SPIRAL LEFT Three cones are placed in a straight line with spaces between them of 1,5–2 meters. The team must turn to the left to move around each of the cones.</p>
	<p>131. SINGLE SLALOM Four cones are placed in a straight line with spaces between them of 1,5–2 meters. The team must enter the exercise with the first cone on its left. The team weaves through the four cones.</p>
	<p>132. DOUBLE SLALOM Four cones are placed in a straight line with spaces between them of 1,5–2 meters. The team must enter the exercise with the first cone on its left. The team weaves through the four cones, loop the end cone and weaves back.</p>
	<p>133. FIGURE 8 Two cones are placed 2,5–3 meters apart. The team must enter the exercise as decided by the judge. The team performs a complete figure 8 around the cones, crossing the centre line three times.</p>

2 POINTS

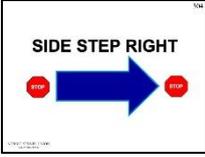
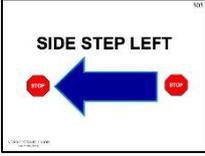
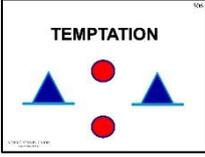
	<p>201. 2 x TURN AROUND DOG BEHIND The handler makes an about turn to the left, while the dog turns to the right, moving around the handler and back to the heel position. The team then takes 2–3 steps before repeating the about turn and continues in the same direction as before.</p> <p>Right handling: The handler makes an about turn to the right, while the dog turns to the left, moving around the handler and back to the heel position. The team then takes 2–3 steps before repeating the about turn and continues in the same direction as before.</p>
	<p>202. STOP - STAND The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. The dog is directed to a stand position. The dog remains standing until the team moves forward.</p>

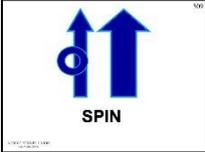
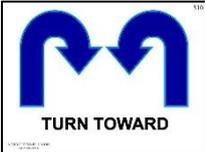
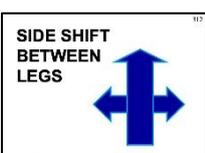
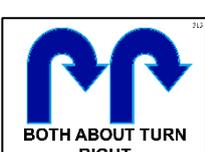
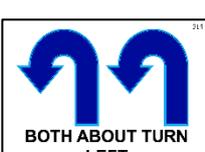
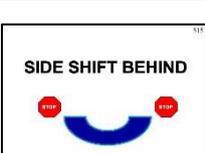
	<p>203. DOWN The handler stops, and the dog lies down beside the handler. The dog stays down until the team moves forward.</p>
	<p>204. STOP – RUN FROM SIT The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. Next the team runs forward until another sign instructs them to change their speed.</p>
	<p>205. STOP – TURN RIGHT 1 STEP – CALL - STOP The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The dog remains sitting while the handler takes one step to the right and stops. The step can either be taken directly or the handler can turn on the spot and take the step. The dog is then recalled to sit at the handler's side.</p>
	<p>206. STOP – TURN LEFT 1 STEP – CALL - STOP The handler stops, and the dog sits. The dog remains sitting while the handler takes one step to the left and stops. The step can either be taken directly or the handler can turn on the spot and take the step. The dog is then recalled to sit at the handler's side.</p>
	<p>207. STOP – 180° RIGHT TURN - FORWARD The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The team makes a 180° turn to the right on the spot and continues forward.</p>
	<p>208. STOP – 180° RIGHT TURN - STOP The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The team makes a 180° turn to the right on the spot, stops and the dog sits.</p>
	<p>209. STOP – 180° LEFT TURN - FORWARD The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The team makes a 180° turn to the left on the spot and continues forward.</p>

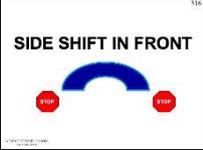
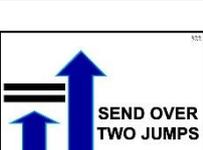
 <p>210 180° LEFT TURN</p>	<p>210. STOP - 180° LEFT TURN - STOP The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The team makes a 180° turn to the left on the spot, stops and the dog sits.</p>
 <p>211 TURN RIGHT 1 STEP</p>	<p>211. STOP – TURN RIGHT 1 STEP - STOP The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The handler takes one step to the right and stops. The step can either be taken directly or the handler can turn on the spot and take the step. The dog moves with the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops.</p>
 <p>212 TURN LEFT 1 STEP</p>	<p>212. STOP – TURN LEFT 1 STEP - STOP The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The handler takes one step to the left and stops. The step can either be taken directly or the handler can turn on the spot and take the step. The dog moves with the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops.</p>
 <p>213 CALL FRONT 1 STEP BACK 2 STEPS BACK 3 STEPS BACK</p>	<p>213. CALL FRONT STOP – 1 STEP BACK STOP – 2 STEPS BACK STOP – 3 STEPS BACK STOP The handler stops, and the dog is directed to sit in front of the handler. The handler takes one step backward, stops, two steps backward, stops, three steps backward and stops. The dog moves with the handler and resumes a sit in front of the handler when the handler stops. The dog is then directed to the handlers left side and the team continues forward.</p>
 <p>214 SEND OVER JUMP</p>	<p>214. SEND OVER JUMP The dog is sent over the jump at the earliest next to the sign that is two meters before the jump. At the same time the handler continues alongside the jump. The handler may increase the pace to catch up with the dog.</p>

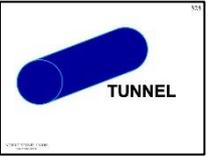
3 POINTS

 <p>301 STAND SIT</p>	<p>301. STOP – STAND - SIT The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The dog is directed to a stand position, followed by a sit position. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward.</p>
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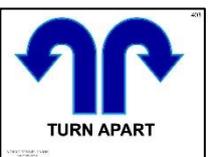
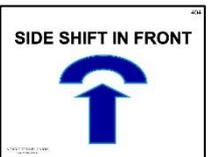
	<p>302. STOP – STAND - DOWN</p> <p>The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The dog is directed to a stand position, followed by a down position. The dog stays down until the team moves forward.</p>
	<p>303. STOP – STAND – WALK AROUND</p> <p>The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The dog is directed to a stand position. The handler walks forward around the dog, back to the side of the dog and makes a stop. The dog remains standing until the team moves forward.</p>
	<p>304. STOP – SIDE STEP RIGHT - STOP</p> <p>The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The handler takes one step to the right and stops. The dog moves aligned with the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops. This exercise is performed after the sign.</p>
	<p>305. STOP – SIDE STEP LEFT - STOP</p> <p>The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The handler takes one step to the left and stops. The dog moves aligned with the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops.</p>
	<p>306. TEMPTATION</p> <p>Two cones are placed 2,5–3 meters apart. The team must enter the exercise as decided by the judge. The team performs a complete figure 8 around the cones, crossing the centre line three times. Toys, treats or both may be used as temptations.</p>
	<p>307. STOP – 1 STEP STAND – 2 STEPS STOP – 3 STEPS DOWN</p> <p>The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The handler takes one step forward, stops, two steps forward, stops, three steps forward, stops. The dog moves with the handler and resumes a stand, sit and down position in this order when the handler stops. The dog remains down until the team moves forward.</p>
	<p>308. CALL FRONT STOP – 1 STEP BACK STAND – 2 STEPS BACK STOP – 3 STEPS BACK DOWN</p> <p>The handler stops, and the dog is directed to sit in front of the handler. The handler takes one step backward, stops, two steps backward, stops, three steps backward and stops. The dog moves with the handler and resumes a stand, sit and down position in this order in front of the handler when the handler stops. The dog is then directed to the handlers left side and the team continues forward.</p>

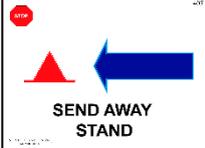
	<p>309. SPIN While the team is moving, the dog spins a circle forward and alongside the handler.</p>
	<p>310. TURN TOWARD While moving, the team makes a 180° tight, simultaneous turn toward each other and continue in the opposite direction. The heeling side is changed.</p>
	<p>311. SIDE SHIFT BEHIND While moving, the dog makes a side shift behind the handler. The heeling side is changed. The dog is not allowed to spin to make the shift.</p>
	<p>312. SIDE SHIFT BETWEEN LEGS While moving, the dog makes a side shift between the handler's legs. The handler may stop when the dog performs the exercise. The heeling side is changed.</p>
	<p>313. BOTH ABOUT TURN RIGHT While moving, the team makes a 180° tight, simultaneous turn to the right and continue in the opposite direction. The heeling side is changed.</p>
	<p>314. BOTH ABOUT TURN LEFT While moving, the team makes a 180° tight, simultaneous turn to the left and continue in the opposite direction. The heeling side is changed.</p>
	<p>315. STOP – SIDE SHIFT BEHIND - STOP The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The dog makes a side shift behind the handler and resumes a sit on the other side. When completed, the team moves forward. The heeling side is changed. The dog is not allowed to spin to make the side shift.</p>

	<p>316. STOP – SIDE SHIFT IN FRONT - STOP</p> <p>The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The dog makes a side shift in front of the handler and resumes a sit on the other side. When completed, the team moves forward. The heeling side is changed. The dog must spin to make the side shift.</p>
	<p>317. MOVING STAND - WALK AROUND</p> <p>While moving, the dog is directed to a stand and the handler, without pausing, walks forward around the dog, back to the side of the dog and stops. The dog remains standing until the team moves forward.</p>
	<p>318. MOVING DOWN - WALK AROUND</p> <p>While moving, the dog is directed to a down and the handler, without pausing, walks forward around the dog, back to the side of the dog and stops. The dog stays down until the team moves forward.</p>
	<p>319. MOVING DOWN - WALK FORWARD</p> <p>While moving, the dog is directed to a down and the handler, without pausing, walks forward to the next sign, which is “recall”.</p>
	<p>320. STOP – STAND – WALK FORWARD</p> <p>The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The dog is directed to a stand and the handler walks forward to the next sign, which is “recall”.</p>
	<p>321. RECALL</p> <p>While walking, the handler recalls the dog to heel at the same side as before. This sign is used after signs 319, 320, 406 and 407.</p>
	<p>322. SEND OVER TWO JUMPS</p> <p>The dog is sent over two jumps at the earliest next to the sign that is two meters before the jump. At the same time the handler continues alongside the jumps. The handler may increase the pace to catch up with the dog. The jumps can be in a straight line or to an angle up to 90°. The jumps must be four meters apart. After the jumps the handler directs the dog to heel.</p>

	<p>323. TUNNEL</p> <p>The dog is sent through the tunnel at the earliest next to the sign that is two meters before the tunnel. At the same time the handler continues alongside the tunnel. The handler may increase the pace to catch up with the dog. The tunnel can be either straight or bowed.</p>
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4 POINTS

	<p>401. SIDE STEP RIGHT</p> <p>The handler takes one step to the right and the dog follows aligned with the handler. This exercise is performed after the sign.</p>
	<p>402. SIDE STEP LEFT</p> <p>The handler takes one step to the left and the dog follows, aligned with the handler.</p>
	<p>403. TURN APART</p> <p>While moving, the team makes a 180° tight, simultaneous turn away from each other and continue in the opposite direction. The heeling side is changed.</p>
	<p>404. SIDE SHIFT IN FRONT</p> <p>While moving, the dog makes a side shift in front of the handler and resumes heel position on the other side. The dog is not allowed to spin to make the side shift.</p>
	<p>405. CIRCLE AROUND HANDLER</p> <p>While the team is moving, the dog circles forward around the handler and returns to heel position.</p>
	<p>406. MOVING SIT - WALK FORWARD</p> <p>While moving, the dog is directed to a sit and the handler walks forward to the next sign, which is "recall".</p>

	<p>407. STOP - SEND AWAY - STAND</p> <p>The team stops, turns toward the cone and the dog sits. The handler then sends the dog to a stand next to the cone, which is 4–5 meters away. The dog remains standing at the cone while the handler walks to the next sign, which is “recall”.</p>
	<p>408. CALL FRONT – STAND - BACK AWAY - STAND</p> <p>While moving, the dog is directed to stand in front of the handler. The dog is then directed to back away at least three doglengths from the handler to a stand. The handler walks forward and next to the dog recalls the dog to the handlers left side.</p>
	<p>409. BACKWARDS 3 STEPS</p> <p>While moving, the handler takes at least three steps back while the dog heels backward aligned with the handler. When completed, the team moves forward.</p>
	<p>410. STOP – 1 STEP BACK STOP – 2 STEPS BACK STOP</p> <p>The handler stops, and the dog sits beside the handler. The handler takes one step backward, stops, two steps backward and stops. The dog heels backward with the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops. When completed, the team moves forward.</p>
	<p>411. STOP – RECALL OVER JUMP</p> <p>The handler stops next to the sign that is two meters before the jump and the dog sits beside the handler. The handler walks forward and recalls the dog after having passed the jump to heel at the same side as before.</p>