

## **OTEC Guidelines for Clubs Conducting Obedience / Rally O "Learners Rings"**

**Purpose:** To provide positive ring experience for dogs / handlers in a trial setting at any level, as offered by Affiliates. The intention should be flexible and cater for the individual needs of the dog/handler teams. These rings may be offered in conjunction with Trials or at another time. Any or all trial levels may be offered.

Handlers must be financial members of DOGS Victoria or other state control and dogs must also be registered with DOGS Victoria or similar body.

A Club does not need to apply to run Learners Rings but must include it on the Schedule. Classes may be referred to as LCCD, LCD, etc

The ANKC Obedience/Rally O Rules and the DOGS Victoria Rules and Regulations will apply to the conduct of all dogs/handlers. There will be no physical or harsh verbal reprimands of dogs.

A dog may not enter a Learner Class at an event at which it is entered in a Trial Class.

**Entries:** Will be taken in the usual manner with a prior closing date. The approved Performance entry form must be used. A list of entries will be compiled. An entry fee lower than that for trial classes may be charged.

**Judges:** May be selected from current ANKC judges, retired Judges or any other suitable person with a wide background experience in training and trialling dogs. These people should understand that flexibility is paramount when dealing with each individual entry.

**Exercises:** Will be a selection of those of the Class entered. They may be shortened or limited to suit learning dogs. The Club will schedule the exercises to be offered and provide suitable scoresheets.

**Awards:** Prizes may be offered. Rather than placings, an Encouragement Award may be offered for each level, the recipient determined by the Judge. Cash equal to the value of the entry fee could be offered as a prize. Sashes/rosettes/ribbons may be awarded.

**Avoiding Disturbance to Trial Rings:** If Learner Classes are offered at Trials, there must be NO noise or movement which would distract competing dogs. To this end it would be preferable if learner rings were located well away from the Trial Rings.

Toys, food and vocal encouragement may be used to a suitable degree at the discretion of the judge.

These are **NOT** training rings, dogs which are entered must be at trialling level, but maybe with a particular issue which is preventing success in formal trialling and which needs some extra attention.

Handlers should have read and be familiar with the Australian National Kennel Council Ltd Obedience and / or Rally O Rules so they know what is expected of them and their dogs.

***NOTE: If these classes are scheduled in conjunction with an Open / Restricted Obedience or Rally Trial, NO DOGS Victoria Levy is payable on the Learners Classes offered***

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ANKC Rules can be found at [www.ankc.org.au](http://www.ankc.org.au) in About ANKC Ltd  
DOGS Victoria Performance Entry Form [www.dogsvictoria.org.au](http://www.dogsvictoria.org.au) in the Members Area

May 2015