

ROB Newsletter

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This marks the inaugural edition of our FCI Rally Obedience Newsletter! Our goal is to keep everyone around the globe informed about the exciting activities happening within the FCI Rally Obedience Commission. We are a passionate team committed to expanding our sport internationally and ensuring the well being of our handlers and dogs.

Rally Obedience is a partnership between Handler and Dog as they navigate a course filled with twists, turns, and a series of complexities. It creates a bond between you and your dog with excitement of precision and teamwork.

Welcome to the captivating world of Rally Obedience sport, where four legged companions become skilled, and handlers become expert navigators in a thrilling 'dance' of communication and trust.

Rally Obedience is about the deep connection and bond between handler and dog. The handler reads the sign and communicates via hand and/or verbal cues with the dog what is required. In time your dog will be capable of executing complex exercises with precision and grace. However, it is very important that you need to know the signs, and you need to find ways that work best for you and your dog.

Trust and Love and Fun is what Rally Obedience is all about.

Happy Reading!



From the desk of the FCI Rally Obedience Commission President

TYTTI LINTENHOFER
Kannus, Finland

As the Chief Judge of the very first Rally Obedience World Championship, held in Finland, I am still filled with excitement and pride as I reflect on this landmark event.

The competition brought together 10 countries, each showcasing their best teams of handlers and dogs, and the atmosphere was one of camaraderie, enthusiasm, and mutual respect. It was truly an honor to be a part of such a monumental occasion in the history of FCI Rally Obedience.

The event, which took place under the exceptional organization of Tsau ry, was nothing short of spectacular. The team behind the event had put in an incredible amount of effort to ensure a smooth and memorable World Championship.

One of the most striking aspects of this competition was the international nature of the event. With 10 countries participating, each with its own style and approach to Rally Obedience, we saw a delightful diversity of handling techniques. The teams showed a high level of skill and teamwork between handlers and their dogs.

As Chief Judge I worked alongside an amazing team of judges from different countries, each bringing their

expertise and knowledge to the table. The collaboration was exceptional, and the open communication between judges ensured consistency and fairness throughout the competition.

What truly made this event extraordinary was the sense of community and mutual respect that permeated the entire competition. From the handlers to the spectators, there was a shared sense of excitement and joy in seeing dogs and their handlers work together in such a positive and rewarding way. The atmosphere was also transmitted via the live stream around the world. Every team, regardless of whether they won or not, was celebrated for their effort and dedication to the sport. The enthusiasm and sportsmanship on display were truly heartwarming.

This first Rally Obedience World Championship was more than just a competition, it was a celebration of everything FCI Rally Obedience represents. The event showcased the international growth and appeal of the sport, which is continuously evolving and inspiring dog lovers around the world. It was also a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved—from the FCI Rally Obedience commission, the competitors and judges to the organizers and volunteers—who made this historic event possible.

As we look forward to future World Championships, I am filled with optimism and excitement about what lies ahead for FCI Rally Obedience. The success of the first World Championship in Finland is a strong foundation for future events, and I have no doubt that this will be a tradition that continues to grow, bringing together the global Rally Obedience community for many years to come.

For me, this experience has been nothing short of amazing. I am proud to have been part of such a groundbreaking event.



First World Championships

KARIN LASSMANN,
Tallinn, Estonia

It was truly a wonderful honor and joy for me to serve as a judge for this year's World Championship. Since 2019, I have been part of the FCI ROB commission, where we have dedicated years to developing the rules for Rally Obedience. This year marked the exciting debut of the World Championships in Turku, Finland. I believe this is a significant milestone for the growth of Rally Obedience. The performances at the World Championship were absolutely stunning. It was delightful to witness that all participating countries showcased a high level of skill, with many being quite evenly matched, even those with a shorter history in Rally Obedience.

Competing in such a large-scale event, especially one that is happening for the first time, is certainly a challenge—there are always unexpected hurdles to overcome. I have immense respect for everyone who trained their dogs to such a high standard and took the leap to compete in this remarkable event.

I'm excited that all Rally Obedience enthusiasts now have a major global competition to look forward to each year!



FCI ROB World Champion 2024

WORLD CHAMPION 2024 OF RALLY OBEDIENCE
Lisa Grönstedt Vilhelmsson & Eldflammans Triton Sweden

2ND PLACE Eija Heinonen & Kutinan Xuurvili Finland

3RD PLACE Solveig Nyvold & Doubleuse Marlon Brandon Sweden



FCI ROB World Champion 2024 of Rally Obedience Team Competition

1ST PLACE: SWEDEN

Kickan Nikolic & Hadhafang's Royal Beaufort, Solveig Nyvold & Doubleuse Marlon Brandon, Lisa Grönstedt Vilhelmsson & Eldflammans Triton, Monica Svensson & Se Upp Gött Och Leva and Josefin Hederström & Blågul's Morning Nightcap

2ND PLACE: DENMARK

Helle Sejer Damkjær & Myrullen's Mio, Annette Grønbæk Jensen & Archie, Pia Grisell & Asasara Nam Nam Breezer, Trine Sartou Rasmussen & LilSunKiss Get a Grip Galileo and Camilla Bendix & Kojima's I Am Izzi

3RD PLACE: AUSTRIA

Lisa Biegler & Talisman of Flying Porkies, Marina Waltritsch & Nanook, Alexander Sagl & Chiara of Dark Spirits, Dannya Fischer & Australis Keela Dream and Gabriele Piculjan & Herding Devils Get up Jule



What we achieved to date

SOLVEIG ZETTERSTRØM
Olso, Norway

In FCI Rally Obedience we have a sign set with a total of 89 different signs in addition to the Start and Finish sign. If you want to print the signs out, you will find the sign-set here: www.fci.be/en/Rally-Obedience-4746.html

The signs are divided into four different categories. We have 1-point signs, 2-point signs, 3-point signs and 4-point signs. The value on the signs indicates the degree of difficulty on the signs. 1-point signs are the signs with the lowest difficulty, and 4-point signs are the signs with the highest difficulty. In an FCI Rally Obedience course there

must be at least 7 of the 4-point signs, and at least 5 of the 3-point signs. It is a rule that the level of the FCI course must be difficult enough.

When designing a course layout judges should focus on a good mix of fluent, stopping, position, figure, distance, sending, jumping and recall exercises, as well as left and right handling.

The team starts with 100 points. Deductions are made based on the judge's assessment of the team's performance. During the course and when the team is performing exercises, the judge must take into account the dog's breed, size and specific temperament while judging.

In the FCI Regulations you find pictures of the signs, and a description of how to perform each sign. It's not only information about how to perform the exercise, but also information about what exercise area the sign has. In FCI Rally Obedience we have four different exercises areas. They are named A, B, C and D, and you find more information about them in the Regulations in point 4.3. The name of the signs are written like this; "101 DOWN (A)". It's the number of the signs first, then the name of the sign, and in the end it's the name of the exercise area.



YouTube video clips of signs

You gain a lot of knowledge about FCI Rally Obedience by reading the Regulations but it's not always easy to understand just by reading. Therefore, we have made a film-demo of all the FCI signs. We have used different dogs in the demo. Small dogs, medium dogs and large dogs. We hope that a film-demo will help you to understand the requirements of the exercises, and also inspire you to practice with your own dog.

You will find the film-demo on YouTube:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCnrUvE9Fug