

## 2026 DOG GUIDELINES

### DOG COMMITTEE

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**Dog Agility:** Friday, August 29, 5:30 p.m. – Small Animal Tent - (Set-Up at 4:30 p.m.)

**You and Your Dog:** Saturday, August 30, 12:00 p.m., Place: Small Animal Tent

**Dog Agility:** Saturday, August 30, 7:30 p.m. – Small Animal Tent - (Set-Up at 7:00 p.m.)

**Dog Rally:** Sunday, August 31, 11:00 a.m. – Place: Event Center

**Dog Showmanship:** Sunday, August 31, 2:00 p.m. - Questions: Event Center  
Showmanship Class to follow – Place – Small Animal Tent

**Dog Obedience:** Monday, September 1, 2:00 p.m. – Place: Small Animal Tent

### OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE OF DOG PROJECT

The dog project is an excellent tool for character development of youth. Training a dog teaches one to have patience, persistence, to speak clearly in short concise statements, and to realize the value of work. Learning to care for a dog teaches one to be responsible, take pride in ownership, to make decisions, and to learn about behavior.

**JUNIOR FAIR EXHIBITION:** All small animal projects must be checked in on Entry Day by 8 p.m. All small animal projects must follow the Junior Fair and Small & Exotic Animal Committee guidelines while participating in Junior activities and in the Junior Fair Show. Any protests or discrepancies should be discussed with the Committee and Junior Fair Management.

- Small & Exotic Animal Committee has highly recommended that all youth planning to exhibit their animals at the Junior Fair attend a session on Sportsmanship or view the video on Sportsmanship at a countywide event or club meeting.
- No animal projects will be permitted on the fairgrounds without proof of a Health Check on Entry Day.

**PLEASE NOTE: All members must follow Small & Exotic Animal Guidelines & General Junior Fair Guidelines.**

### EXHIBITOR ONLY POLICY - GUIDELINES FOR ALL LIVESTOCK FITTING, SHOWING, AND SHOWMANSHIP

- (A) A junior fair show exhibitor shall be responsible for the continuous care, grooming and preparation of the animal entered in the junior fair show.
- (B) An exhibitor may receive **assistance** in the care, grooming, and preparation of the animal entered in the junior fair show, provided that the **assistance shall be limited to explanation and/or demonstration** provided by the following:
- (1) Family members;
  - (2) Household members;
  - (3) Members of the exhibitor's 4-H club, FFA chapter, or other youth organization. Members providing assistance must be active youth members of the youth organization;
- (C) **Assistance will be limited to explanation and minimal demonstration, or for safety purposes.** Explanation and minimal demonstration refers to explaining and/or showing a youth how to perform the task at hand, and is restricted to this assistance. **Youth exhibitors are expected to complete the task.**
- (D) Member must show his/her own animal. **Coaching or assisting by any person outside the show ring while the exhibitor is showing is prohibited.** ONLY YOUTH EXHIBITORS AND/OR JUNIOR FAIR DESIGNEES AND/OR COMMITTEE MEMBERS ASSISTING WITH THE SHOW MAY BE IN THE RING DURING THE SHOW. Any exceptions must be approved by the committee. Any violation may result in the disqualification of the exhibitor.
- (E) All youth exhibitors, parents, family members, advisors, adult volunteers, or other individuals involved in these projects are expected to maintain a respectable and professional demeanor throughout the project year; and especially during the Junior Fair Show. The project year will be considered from the time an individual enrolls in their project until the next enrollment deadline. **Foul language, disrespectful, unsportsmanlike, unruly behavior and/or animal neglect will not be tolerated.** Discipline will be any or all of the following:
- (1) One verbal warning to discontinue behavior
  - (2) Second warning will be security escort of the individual from the premises.
  - (3) Third warning will result in the barring from exhibition, and/or participation in the activities held during the year, and/or other Junior Fair Livestock events/activities, and/or Junior Fair Show for up to three years.

**IMPORTANT:** In extreme situations, where the safety of any individual has been threatened and/or is in question, and/or if there is any evidence of the use of alcohol, tobacco, vaping, drugs, or violence; the committee may waive the right of the first and/or second warning; and may immediately seek assistance in the removal of an individual from the premises. This individual will be placed on probation and the situation will be reviewed as to further participation referring to section (E) number (3) above.

**This guideline shall be referred to as the "EXHIBITOR ONLY" guideline.** Any additional adult assistance required by a youth exhibitor must be approved by the committee and/or Junior Fair Supervision. Infractions of this guideline shall result in the following:

- (A) If an infraction has been reported and confirmed, one verbal warning will be given immediately to the exhibitor and/or parent/guardian. Exhibitor will be expected to adhere to the guidelines;
- (B) If exhibitor refuses to adhere to the guidelines, a second warning will **result and include a \$50.00 penalty**, which the exhibitor must pay immediately. Penalty monies will be paid to the Junior Fair. The penalty will be attached to a signed, written agreement which states the exhibitor will adhere to the above guidelines;

(C) A third refusal will be termed as tampering and/or misrepresentation and will result in the immediate disqualification of the exhibitor and their animal from the Junior Fair Show. After the situation is reviewed by the Senior Fair Board, this disqualification may result in the barring of this exhibitor from the Junior Fair Show for a period of up to three years.

**NOTE FOR ALL JUNIOR FAIR LIVESTOCK/ANIMAL EXHIBITORS:**

**Any veterinary measures requested by the owner to maintain animal health, are the responsibility of the owner. Each youth showing ANIMALS in the Junior Fair Show should have a Permission to Treat Form on file, so as to provide emergency treatment for your animal.**

Neither the Mahoning County Agricultural Society, nor any other youth organization involved in Junior Fair and their volunteers, assume responsibility for exhibits/projects, including livestock, any article lost or stolen, or any injury during the fair, or any damage of person or possessions on the grounds, or the neglect of any exhibitor, patron, or employee, nor providing liability insurance to cover neither exhibitor nor livestock.

**ANY OF THESE GUIDELINES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMITTEE**

**DOG PROJECT GUIDELINES**

1. A member wishing to train and show their dogs at Mahoning County Junior Fair events must be a member of a Mahoning County Junior Fair/4-H dog club and enrolled by March 15 of the current year.
2. **Ownership: Dogs must either be owned by the exhibitor or the exhibitor's immediate family. Dogs must also be in the continual care of the exhibitor for the project duration.**
  - a. Immediate Family is defined as junior fair member's father, mother, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, grandfather, or grandmother, including corresponding step and half relations, or by a member of the exhibitor's household.
  - b. Continual Care is defined as the junior fair exhibitor being responsible for and involved in the feeding, cleaning, and caring for the project.
3. **All members must attend at least 3 county dog clinics.**
4. **Members and their dogs must do a minimum of 2 events to show at the fair with the exception of You and Your Dog. (example: Showmanship and Rally Obedience, or Agility and Obedience...etc.)**
5. All dogs must have required rabies shot and be vaccinated by self or vet according to your vet's recommendation. Dogs may also be titer tested in lieu of vaccination. (Refer to current state fair guidelines for additional vaccinations.)
6. All dogs must have a current dog license and be born before February 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year according to state fair guidelines.
7. A child must be physically capable of controlling their dog.
8. In order to participate in the county fair, a member must attend a minimum of 6 training sessions per project according to club's guidelines, be in regular attendance at meetings, participate in the county dog skillathon and complete the required project book. Only member taking the dog project can participate in the dog skillathon. The committee highly recommends attending more than the required meetings. Training session requirement must be met by the County Junior Fair Show. Make-up training sessions must be arranged and approved by advisors.
9. The member must finish with the dog that was entered, unless approved for a back-up dog by advisors and county dog committee. See guidelines referring to back-up dog.
  - a. All back-up dogs must meet project guidelines.
  - b. A back-up dog can only be substituted with parent's and advisor's permission. If you anticipate that your dog will come in season, you should work with back-up dog in advance.
  - c. A back-up dog may be limited in participation in certain events as designated by the committee.
10. Only the actual dog project will be permitted to come to the county fair or an approved back-up dog. The advisors and committee will determine approval of the back-up dog. A member may also have an assistance dog project in addition to their regular project.
11. **Hardship Case:** A hardship case is defined as a situation that is beyond the control of the youth member which must be reviewed by the Dog Committee and presented to the Small Animal Committee for approval. This may include but may not be limited to an illness or death of a dog, inability of a child to own a dog, a dog that replaces the original dog after the deadline. Hardship cases will be considered Exhibition Only – allowing the dog to be exhibited in events but not compete. The Committee must determine which events the dog can exhibit in safely.
12. **Dogs in season are not permitted to compete.** If the dog shows signs of heat, she will be eliminated from the show and must leave the premises. If a dog appears attractive to male dogs, the Dog Committee and Small Animal Committee representatives will decide the status of the dog. At the Fair, the fair vet will determine the status, and the decision will be made by the advisors and Junior Fair Management.
13. Dogs that are unmanageable or vicious will be excused from training and county or state fair. The member may enter a back-up dog (refer to 6a and 6b). These advisors may require the dog to be dismissed from the ring if showing unsafe or threatening behavior. The final decision in competition is at the judge's discretion. During training the advisors will monitor the situation, and the status will be at the advisor's discretion. During the fair, advisors and/or Junior Fair Management may determine the status.
14. Dogs that are ill or have medical problems that interfere with participation are not permitted at the fair (state or county.)
15. The member or exhibitor may show two dogs in different projects if the dog has met the above meeting requirements.

16. **All Mahoning County Junior Fair dog exhibitors must check-in by 8:00 p.m. Tuesday during Junior Fair Check In times to receive Junior Fair Packet & Dog Pass.** All dogs at the fair must be kept on a leash or in a crate on the show grounds. Dogs must be attended by a responsible owner or adult representative.
17. **Dog Clubs planning to participate at the Junior Fair must plan to have dogs on exhibit and submit a Barn Duty schedule to the Junior Fair Office by Junior Fair Entry Day. Youth planning to exhibit in the Junior Fair must be listed on the Barn Duty schedule to exhibit their dog in the barn and/or must be entered in at least one of the Junior Fair Dog Show events.**

### **GENERAL REGULATION AND GUIDELINES FOR SHOWING**

1. **Handler's Appearance:** The member should be neat and clean in appearance. **DO NOT WEAR** T-shirts, jackets, or other apparel with slogans, club names or logos, etc. in the show ring. **DO NOT WEAR:** Spaghetti strap garments, low cut blouses, short skirts/shorts, or torn pants. **DO NOT WEAR:** High heels, sandals, or boots. Neat, clean blue jeans are permissible; however, dress slacks, pant suits, sport shirts are preferred. Soft sole shoes such as tennis shoes or similar type are recommended. The Dog Committee may make adjustments depending on the weather conditions.
2. **Dog's Appearance:** Dogs should be clean, well groomed and in good physical condition appropriate for the type and age of the dog. If purebred, the dog does not have to be in regulation show clip.
3. **Abuse of dog/Abusive treatment of a dog WILL NOT BE TOLERATED** in training classes, inside or outside the show ring. Judges, stewards, exhibitors, or advisors witnessing such behavior should report it to the committee in charge. A member who is abusing or using unnecessarily severe corrections on his/her dog can be dismissed from showing in that show, or training in that class.
4. **SPORTSMANSHIP RULE: POOR SPORTSMANSHIP WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Members, advisors, and parents should display good sportsmanship at all times.** They should be courteous and respectful to the judges, stewards, other exhibitors and spectators. Member's exhibiting poor sportsmanship such as swearing, yelling, excessive corrections, hitting and/or kicking and/or yelling at the dog, loud complaints, and the like will be excused from the competition and will forfeit all ribbons and/or placements. If you or your dog do not perform well in the ring, then **DO NOT** let it show to the other exhibitors and judges.
5. For at least 30 days prior to county judging and the fair, only the exhibitor should train his/her dog. During the county fair, nobody except the handler should be training or walking the dog, without expressed written permission of the owner or advisor. Another 4-H member may watch or walk the dog with member, parent or advisor's permission.
6. Dog's should be given the opportunity to eliminate prior showing in competition. **If a dog eliminates in the ring during obedience, agility, or rally competition, points will be deducted from the score card at the discretion of the judge.** There is no point deduction in Dog Showmanship for elimination in the ring.
7. Exhibitors must achieve a qualifying score of a total of 180 including bonus points in Obedience, Showmanship, and/or You and Your Dog, a score of a total of 90 in Rally, and a score of at least a 75 in Agility to place in competition.

### **PROPER EQUIPMENT**

**Obedience:** Dogs in obedience must wear well fitting slip or snap collars. The collar may be of leather, fabric, or chain with one ring on either end. The leash may be of fabric or leather and should be 6' in length (but at the discretion of the advisor, may be 4') – **no chain leashes!!!** For novice classes the leash need only be long enough for slack during on-leash exercises. Collars should be free of any tags, bells, etc. Prong collars are not permitted in 4-H dog training. Show leads are required for Showmanship. For agility, collars must be well fitting snap collars with no tags. Collars are not required for off lead runs. Slip/choke collars, prong collars, head collars, and electronic collars are not permitted.

### **OBEDIENCE GUIDELINES**

**Beginner Novice A:** (replaces former Sub-Novice A as lowest level obedience class) For first-year youth and dogs with no prior experience in obedience before March 15, 2026. Show one year then move either to Beginner Novice B or Pre-Novice

**Beginner Novice B:** For youth and dogs already shown in Beginner Novice A or have had experience at Beginner Novice level before March 15, 2026. Can move back and forth between Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice unless winning first place. If win first place in Beginner Novice B can still show in Pre-Novice until winning first place or experience at the Novice level

**Pre-Novice:** Same progression criteria as Beginner Novice B

**Novice A:** In this class, neither the exhibitor nor dog has had any prior experience at the Novice Level before the county 4-H enrollment deadline. Once an exhibitor shows in this class, he/she must move to Novice B or higher level. Once a dog has been shown in this class, the dog must be shown at the Novice B level or higher.

**Novice B:** This class is for the exhibitor or dog that has shown in Novice A or has had experience at the Novice level before the county's 4-H enrollment deadline. They have not progressed yet to Graduate Novice A or higher. Dogs shown in this class cannot show in any lower levels of dog obedience.

### **SHOWMANSHIP**

Exercises to be performed in Showmanship: (1) Interview; (2) Handler's Appearance & Attitude; (3) Grooming; (4) Handling. For the interview, age appropriate questions will come from the project book. Classes will be divided as follows:

**Showmanship Junior A:** Age 8 and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to 11 or under as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Neither the dog nor exhibitor has any experience showing in Showmanship.

**Showmanship Junior B:** Age 8 and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to 11 or under as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Exhibitors who have shown in Showmanship Junior A or have had previous experience in showmanship.

**Showmanship Intermediate A:** Age 12 to 14 as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Neither the dog nor exhibitor has any experience showing in Showmanship.

**Showmanship Intermediate B:** Age 12 to 14 as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Exhibitors who have shown in Showmanship Intermediate A or have had previous experience in showmanship.

**Showmanship Senior A:** Age 15 to 18 as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Neither the dog nor exhibitor has any experience showing in Showmanship.

**Showmanship Senior B:** Age 15 to 18 as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Exhibitors who have shown in Showmanship Senior A or have had previous experience in showmanship.

### **YOU & YOUR DOG**

Occasionally a family may have two children interested in dog projects, and only have one dog. It is important for a child and a dog to have a bond and train together in preparation of most dog events. The You and Your Dog project is an exploratory project that's focus is more about animal care, animal welfare, and dog related learning experiences that it is about training to perform. **Siblings are allowed to share a dog in the You and Your Dog class.** Both siblings can take the dog in You & Your Dog. However, only one child may take the dog in performance events. Youth would need to designate which child will be working with the dog in these performance events at the beginning of the year. Dogs cannot be shared in obedience, showmanship, performance or working events.

1. Youth must be enrolled in project # 201D, You and Your Dog.
2. You and Your Dog classes are based on the age of the youth. Therefore, an exhibitor and dog can show in ONE You and Your Dog class only. Youth may show the same dog or different dog in any other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements.

Classes: You and Your Dog Junior: Youth 8 – 11 years of age as of Jan. 1 of the current year

You and Your Dog Intermediate: Youth 12 – 14 years of age as of Jan. 1 of the current year

You and Your Dog Senior: Youth 15 – 18 years of age as of Jan. 1 of the current year

Criteria to be evaluated in all You and Your Dog classes include:

- a.) Exhibit (40 pts.): This must be from the current project year, show some knowledgeable phase of project work, presented to educate, not merely inform. Exhibit judged on educational content (20 pts.), neatness and appearance (5 pts.), originality (5 pts.), and exhibitor's presentation (10 pts.) Time Limit: 5 minutes. (Note: The exhibit section will be the first section of the judging.)
- b.) Member's Interview (60 pts.): For the interview, six age-appropriate questions, each worth 10 points, will come from the Ohio Dog Resource Handbook.
- c.) 4-H Dog Project & Record Book (40 pts.): The entire 4-H Dog Project and Record Book applicable to You & Your Dog project must be filled out completely, including photographs. Bring entire book to judging.
- d.) Member's Appearance and Attitude (40 pts.): Exhibitors should be neat and clean in appearance. Appropriate clothing must be worn.
- e.) Dog's Appearance & Manners (50 pts.): Dogs should be clean and well groomed. They should show good manners and be able to be controlled by the handlers. Dogs should allow examination without resistance or aggression. Bond and teamwork between handler and dog should be apparent.

**Ties In Scoring: Ties will be broken at the discretion of the judge.**

### **MAHONING COUNTY DOG AGILITY**

This program is offered for youth ages 8 and in the third grade to 18 as of January 1 of the current year. **Three** progressive levels of competition are offered to foster advancement in training and to provide recognition for junior handler accomplishments in dog agility. In Mahoning County, these levels may be divided according to youth's and their dog's experience, and ability level. Classes will also be divided according to the size of the dog.

**Each level will have the following Class Divisions according to jump height:**

4" – 8" On Lead

12" – 16" On Lead

20" – 24" Off Lead

The levels are:

**Level 1:** Dogs may compete on or off leash with approval of the club advisor. The obstacle course shall be comprised of 10 obstacles: A-frame apex at 4'6", table set at 12" for all jump heights, pipe tunnels, and six hurdles. The standard course time is 60 seconds. Dogs competing on leash may only jump a maximum of 16". These dog/handler teams should have at least one-year experience in agility. Handler and dog may advance after 2 scores of 95, but must advance to level 2 after 3 scores of 95.

**Level 2:** In the Mahoning County Junior Fair demonstration, teams may choose to show on or off leash for safety purposes. The same obstacles and related modifications shall be used as in Level 1, except the A-frame shall measure 5' at the apex. In a secure location dogs should compete at this level off leash but may use a snap collar with no tags. These dog/handler teams should have at least one-year experience in agility. Handler and dog may advance after 2 scores of 95 but must advance to level 3 after 3 scores of 95.

**Level 3:** Course shall include 12 – 14 obstacles: A-frame set at 5'6", dog walk, pipe tunnels, 5-6 weave poles (optional), table set 12"-16", long jump, tire jump (optional), 4-6 hurdles. Course standard time is 75 seconds. Level 3 requires the dog to run off lead.

**Please Note:** Classes may vary depending on the number and experience of participants. Class changes will be determined by the committee.

### **MAHONING COUNTY DOG AGILITY GUIDELINES**

1. Each member must attend a minimum of 8 agility training sessions (more would be recommended) in order to show at the Mahoning County Junior Fair Dog Show.
2. Each first year member or a member with a new dog must participate in a Pre-Fair Agility Test to ensure that the dog is ready to participate in the Mahoning County Junior Fair Dog Show. Testing will be completed to determine proper showing level, height, and showing off or on lead.
3. Training aids, treats, and toys will not be permitted on course during competition or familiarization.
4. Collars must adhere to the show guidelines listed previously. Harnesses are recommended for dogs running on leash.
5. Leads must be 6 feet long and made of leather or nylon. Leashes must be used in a safe, kind manner. It is the handler's responsibility to manage the leash in a safe manner. For example, the handler must lift the leash over the jump standards, keep the leash out of the way on contacts, and release the leash when the dog goes through the tunnel. Handlers will be excused if the judge feels the leash is being used in an unsafe manner.
6. Handlers may not jump the hurdles with the dog.
7. Handlers may not touch the dog or obstacles while running the course.
8. Handlers may use voice commands, hand signals, or both. Handlers are encouraged to talk to their dogs through the course, cheer their dogs during the run, and offer other verbal praise. There is no penalty for multiple commands or verbal encouragement, but all must be in the name of good sportsmanship. Handlers are encouraged to praise the dog after crossing the finish line.
9. Courses will have clearly designated start and finish lines.
10. Obstacles must be no closer than 10' apart.
11. Handlers will be asked to go on to the next obstacle if their dog refuses three times in a row. The exhibitor will not be faulted for refusals.
12. A familiarization period will be allowed prior to the start of the classes, if time permits. During this time, handlers will be able to have their dogs perform each contact once. Only level appropriate contacts will be performed. The judge may also allow the handlers to have their dogs perform one jump and/or tire and weave poles, if they are offered in the course.
13. "Four Paws Rule:" The handler will be asked to move on to the next obstacle if their dog commits to a contact obstacle with all four paws then jumps off, falls off, etc.
14. In the exhibition, an exhibitor must score at least a 75 to receive a placement ribbon. A score of anything less will merit a participation ribbon.

### **OBSTACLE PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**A-FRAME:** The dog must ascend the up ramp in the direction designated by the judge, cross over the apex, and descend the down ramp, touching the safety contact zone before leaving the obstacle.

**PIPE TUNNEL:** The dog must enter the opening to the tunnel in the direction designated by the judge and exit the other end of the tunnel.

**PAUSE TABLE:** The dog must jump onto the table. Depending on the level the dog may have to sit, or down, and may have to remain in this position for a count of 3 – 5 seconds.

**JUMPS/HURDLES:** The dog must jump over the hurdle in the direction designated by the judge, crossing between the hurdle's two supports and over the pole or planks without knocking off the top bar or plank.

**DOG WALK:** The dog must ascend the ramp in the direction designated by the judge, traverse the cross plank, and descend the other ramp, touching the safety contact zone.

**TIRE JUMP:** The dog must jump through the tire in the direction designated by the judge. A dog may touch the tire with its feet.

**WEAVE POLES:** The dog must weave in and out in a continuous motion down the complete lines of poles. The dog begins by passing on the right side of the first pole, crossing the line of poles between pole number 1 & 2, then pass the

left side of pole number 2, then crossing the line of poles between 2 and 3, and continuing in a sequence down the complete line of poles. A handler/dog team must correct for any missed poles, and fully complete the weaving pattern. **LONG JUMP:** The dog must jump over the planks without touching them; crossing between the front corner marker poles in the direction designated by the judge, clear the span of the planks and exit between the back-corner marker poles. **TEETER/SEE-SAW:** The dog must touch the safety contact zone while ascending the see saw, cross the plank's pivot point, causing the see saw to tilt to the ground on the other end, and descend the remainder of the plank, touching the safety contact zone before leaving the plank. The plank shall touch the ground prior to the dog leaving the plank. The dog must be in control of the plank.

### **AGILITY GAME CLASSES**

**Just Tunnels** is a numbered course made up of tunnels (no jumps or contacts). This game is a test of speed and handling ability. Course design will be the same for both on lead and off lead classes.

**Over, Under and Through** is a numbered course made up of contacts, tunnels and tires. The game tests reliable contact performance at a fast pace. Course design will differ slightly between on lead and off lead classes to allow the teeter to be used for more advanced dogs.

**Jumpers** is a numbered course of jumps and tunnels (may add tire). This is a class which measures the dog's ability to jump and turn and the handler's abilities while the dog is moving at a fast pace. Course design will vary slightly from on lead and off lead classes to allow for a more challenging course for advanced dog/handler teams.

**Gambler Class** is a course with no pre-determined route and each obstacle is assigned a point value. In the 'opening' period the handler seeks to accumulate points by performing the obstacles of his/her choice in the time allotted. At the conclusion, the handler attempts a finishing sequence as designated by the judge.

### **RALLY**

Youth exhibitors participating in Rally must adhere to the General Dog Guidelines. Exhibitors will advance according to the discretion of the advisors.

#### **Rally Classes**

*Each Rally exercise is described on an 8 1/2" x 11" instructional sign via words, directional arrows, colors, and geometric shapes. There are 10-20 signs per course depending on the level. Rally Novice A and B classes are performed entirely on leash. Sub-Novice level dogs must be shown in either Rally Novice A or B, depending on their experience in Rally. Rally Advanced A & B classes are performed off leash. Rally Excellent A & B classes are performed off leash except the Honor exercise. Novice or above level dogs must show in either Rally Advanced A or B, depending on their experience in Rally. Rally class signs can be viewed and downloaded at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).*

**Rally Novice A** This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog with no prior experience showing at any Rally level before March 15, 2026, or their county's enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. Exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *2026 Mahoning County Junior Fair Dog Guidelines* to participate in Rally. Once an exhibitor shows in this class, he/she must move to Rally Novice B at the very minimum. Once a dog has been shown in this class, the dog must be shown in Rally Novice B at the very minimum.

**Rally Novice B** This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has had prior experience showing at the Rally Novice level before March 15, 2026, or their county's enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. They have not yet progressed to the Rally Advanced level or higher. Exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *2026 Mahoning County Junior Fair Dog Show* to participate in Rally.

**Rally Advanced A** This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has not had prior experience showing at the Rally Advanced level before March 15, 2026, or their county's enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. Exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *2026 Mahoning County Junior Fair Dog Show* to participate in Rally. Once an exhibitor shows in this class, he/she must move to Rally Advanced B at the very minimum. Once a dog has been shown in this class, the dog must be shown in Rally Advanced B at the very minimum.

**Rally Advanced B** This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has had prior experience showing at the Rally Advanced level before March 15, 2026, or their county's enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. They have not yet progressed to the Rally Excellent level. Exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *2026 Mahoning County Junior Fair Dog Show* to participate in Rally.

**Rally Excellent A** This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has not had prior experience showing at the Rally Excellent level before March 15, 2026, or their county's enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. Exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *2026 Mahoning County Junior Fair Dog Show* to participate in Rally. Once an exhibitor shows in this class, he/she must move to Rally Excellent B. Once a dog has been shown in this class, the dog must be shown in Rally Excellent B.

**Rally Excellent B** This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has had prior experience showing at the Rally Excellent level before March 15, 2026, or their county's enrollment deadline, whichever comes first. The youth/dog team may continue showing in Rally Excellent B regardless of the number of gold medals earned at the Rally Excellent level. Exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *2026 Mahoning County Junior Fair Dog Show* to participate in Rally.