

Rally O Hints and Tips

Where to perform that Station?

The Rules say, ***"Signs will be placed to the right of the Handler's path except for ... change in direction, which ... will be directly in front of the Handler."***

*Except for exercises requiring entry with the sign on the left, exercises are performed near the designated signs, **either directly in front, or in the front and to the left of said signs.** (Signs 20 and 40 are performed just past the sign)."*

Plus there is also the Qld recommendation that says

Where must the team execute a Station. We recommend that the **team must execute each Station within 600mm of said station** with obvious exceptions. We recommend that if the handler goes past the sign before giving the command then it will be scored an IP.

So what does all that mean?

Change of direction signs are turns (left, right about turns) and pivots which should be directly in front of you as you perform them.

Note the 360 Left & Right are **NOT** change of direction signs – once you complete the exercise you continue in the same direction – so the exercise should be carried out with the sign on the right as with most other signs. This also applies to the double turns (Left U Turn, Right about Turn etc signs).

Except for # 20 and #40 which are your side steps and performed AFTER the sign – all other exercises should be performed with the sign to your right and **BEFORE** the sign. **This includes the Start sign**, make sure you and your dog have your feet on the correct side of the sign. (This also includes distance markers, make sure you are clearly PAST the marker before performing the sign)



You also don't need to be on top of the sign. If you have to **LEAN** backwards to read the sign, then you are too close! Stand back a little. Not only will it help you read it properly and get your bearings but you won't be crowding the sign or crowding your dog into the sign or cone. All these things could cost you points by doing the wrong sign or handler error for the dog being crowded or out of position.

However don't forget, make sure you go completely past the Finish sign before you stop and congratulate yourself 😊