RRCUS Rally Survey Results

The RRCUS Rally survey results show a clear majority of the responding members in support of the updated Rally rankings.

Therefore, **the Rally Subcommittee and the Performance Committee recommend that this updated system become the finalized version of the RRCUS Rally rankings**, which will be implemented—pending approval of the RRCUS BOD—with the effective date of January 1, 2024.

A summary of the differences between the Pilot Program (2022-2023) and the finalized version of the Rally rankings being proposed to begin in 2024 is provided on page 3 of this report.

A summary of ranking calculations as they would be displayed on the RRCUS website is provided on page 4.

BACKGROUND

In August 2021, the RRCUS Board of Directors approved a proposal for Rally rankings submitted by the Performance Committee & Rally Subcommittee as a Pilot Program. The proposal had included a draft of a survey for the RRCUS membership (this draft was included in the 8/2021 BOD minutes). However, the preliminary step of gathering survey results was temporarily waived by the BOD at that time, allowing the Pilot Program to begin on January 1, 2022.
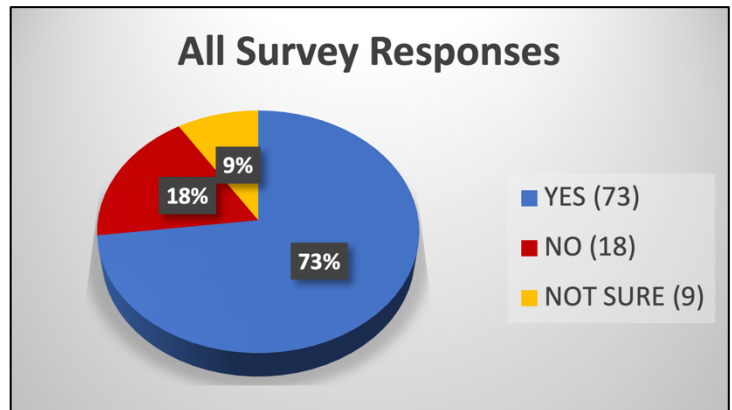
In January 2023, the Performance Committee reviewed the Rally ranking system and areas for improvement were identified. The Rally Subcommittee was reconvened to suggest updates and to complete the final step of surveying the RRCUS membership on these updates. The Rally survey was open to all RRCUS members from August 8th to August 21st, 2023.

SURVEY RESULTS

100 members completed the survey:
- 101 surveys were submitted, of which 1 was a duplicate submission and deleted.
- 71 (71%) of respondents had earned an AKC Rally title with a Ridgeback.

73 out of 100 respondents (73%) answered YES, they would support the proposed update to the RRCUS Rally ranking system.

All Survey Responses

- YES (73) — 73%
- NO (18) — 18%
- NOT SURE (9) — 9%

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE SURVEYS

The Rally Subcommittee identified 4 categories of topics that were mentioned by multiple respondents in the comments section of the survey:

1) 18 comments regarding the ¼ point earned for each dog defeated if a placement is earned:
- 7 members who responded "No" and 1 member who responded "Not Sure" commented that they disapproved of this portion of the ranking system.
- 10 members who responded "Yes" commented that they approved of this portion of the ranking system.

Rally Subcommittee commentary: We would like to offer some clarification regarding the points for dogs defeated:
- *The ¼ point per dog defeated is **currently part of the Pilot Program**. **No changes** were proposed to this portion of the ranking system in the survey.*
- *The points from dogs defeated **have not been a primary determinant of ranking order**, as demonstrated in the details offered in the end-of-year 2022 rankings.*

- *A thorough review of the Rally data from 2022 **did <u>not</u> support the contention that points from dogs defeated would only benefit those competing in areas with large numbers of competitors**.*

2) 9 comments regarding the complexity of the ranking system:
- 3 members who responded "No" commented that they disapproved of the complexity of the system.
- 2 members who responded "Yes" stated or suggested in their comments that the level of complexity could be problematic.
- 2 members who responded "Yes" commented that the updated program is more "streamlined" than the Pilot program.
- 2 members who responded "Yes" approved of the "comprehensive" nature of the system.

3) 7 comments regarding additional recognition for dogs:
- 3 members who responded "No" and 1 member who responded "Not sure" disapproved of excluding Novice and Intermediate classes.
- 2 members who responded "Not Sure" commented they would like to see greater recognition for the teams working on RA and RE titles (the titles that are the prerequisites for the RAE, RM, and RACH titles).
- 1 member who responded "Yes" said they would like to see a Top 10 awards rather than a Top 5.
- 1 member who responded "Not sure" asked if this meant having awards for the Top 10 (it was not clear if this was asked in support of or in opposition to awarding a Top 10).

Rally Subcommittee commentary: We had discussed the inclusion of Novice in the rankings, however, due to the following considerations, we have kept the system as proposed in the survey:
- *If a limited number of Novice Qs were allowed to count toward rankings, it would increase the complexity of the system without having an impact on the end-of-year results.*
- ***To recognize successes in all levels of Rally**, RRCUS continues to publish—both online and in the magazine—the list of Ridgebacks **who meet eligibility criteria for entering the AKC Rally National Championship** each year, **including Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Excellent teams**.*

4) 6 comments regarding the consistency of RRCUS ranking systems
- 4 members who responded "No" commented that the Rally system is inconsistent with other RRCUS ranking systems: 2 comments specified the points involving competition with other breeds (points for dogs defeated) as the inconsistent aspect; the other 2 comments did not explain how all other RRCUS rankings are consistent with each other.
- 2 members who responded "Yes" commented that the points involving competition with other breeds are not inconsistent with RRCUS rankings as there are points for Group placements in the Owner-Handler program.

The Subcommittee is honored to have had the opportunity to propose this Rally Ranking system for RRCUS. Through multiple meetings and countless emails, every member of the subcommittee contributed to its creation. We have shared ideas, deliberated on decisions through open dialogue, and given careful consideration to all aspects of the rankings. The Rally Ranking system has truly been a collaborative effort from us all.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Submitted by the Rally Subcommittee, September 2023
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