

## BRACE LEVEL

Two dogs and one handler compete in each run at the Brace level. The two dogs and one handler constitute a Brace.

A Brace may compete at the Brace level for Novice, Advanced, Excellent, Versatility and Versatility Excellent. The title designations shall appear after the dog's name on the CARO title certificate.

- CRBN CARO Rally Brace Novice
- CRBA CARO Rally Brace Advanced
- CRBX CARO Rally Brace Excellent
- CRBV CARO Rally Brace Versatility
- CRBVX CARO Rally Brace Versatility Excellent

1. There is no distinction between A and B in Brace Competition. Both A and B level dogs may compete together in Brace Level.

A dog with a Brace title at one level may compete as a bye dog at one lower level - i.e. a dog with an Advanced Brace title may be a bye dog for a Novice Brace.

The bye-dog will be listed in the catalogue and the Judge's Trial Record as bye-dog, with an entry number of #0000.

2. All dogs must have earned their individual titles before competing in Brace. That means that a Novice title must be earned prior to competing in Novice Brace and Advanced title prior to competing in Advanced Brace etc.
3. Dogs may compete in Brace at a trial PRIOR to earning their individual title if they are also competing in the individual level at that same trial. However if an individual title is NOT earned at the trial then any Brace qualifying scores at that trial will be disregarded.
4. Dog and handler teams may compete concurrently for their individual C level titles and Brace titles.
5. Brace qualifying scores do not count towards C Level title.
6. The minimum ring size for Brace must be 30' X 50' (or the equivalent 1500 square feet).
7. Three qualifying scores of 180 or higher are required from 2 different Judges in order to complete a title. Two dogs and one handler are scored as a whole. If the total number of points deducted is more than 20 the team will not qualify.
8. Allotted time for Novice is 5 minutes all other levels have 4 minutes.
9. There will be one 10 minute walk-thru for each 10-12 Brace teams, which will take place following the regular walk through.
10. Brace judging will run after the regular and C stream classes. The only alterations to the course would be the re-spacing of the Offset Figure 8 and cone exercises done by the Judge between the regular and brace classes. (as directed in #17A & #17B)
11. All Brace courses will have the number of stations including Start and Finish as outlined by the regular classes.

12. Both dogs and handler will enter the ring at the same time. Both dogs must be on their own individual leashes or coupled and on a single leash to enter and exit the ring.  
At the Novice level, both dogs will compete on their own individual leash or coupled and on a single leash for the entire course.  
NOTE: Dogs that are coupled. Should one dog forge or incur a deduction for a tight leash, the deduction will affect both dogs. i.e. One dog tightens the leash, both dogs will incur deductions as the tight leash will happen to both dogs.  
For Advanced, Excellent, Versatility and Versatility Excellent, Both dogs may be on their own individual leashes or coupled and on a single leash to enter and exit the ring but will be judged off leash.
13. Handlers using two leashes: If one dog incurs a deduction for tight leash and if the other dog does not leave heel position, only one dog will incur the deduction.
14. Dogs may switch places while executing behaviours that require the dog to leave the heel position. Should the dogs switch positions while heeling they will receive deductions as noted in the regular guidelines for out of position.
15. JUMPS - TUNNELS - WEAVES: The handler may send one dog before the other, allowing the first dog to clear the obstacle before sending the second dog. No marks will be taken off for a second command to send the second dog. Dogs not returning to the handler at the same time will not receive deductions, however deductions will be made not returning promptly to the handler.  
JUMPS The jump height will be set at the lowest height required. i.e. High Jump: one dog jumps 14 the other 8 then the jump would be set at 8 inches.
16. The handler may use food or toys using the same criteria as the regular classes as described in the CARO Master General Handbook.
17. Judging at all levels will be the same as those outlined in the CARO Master General Handbook.
  - A. **Twelve inches (12")** extra spacing will be added between cones for the weave once, figure 8 and spiral exercises. **Additional space may be added at judge's discretion.**
  - B. Offset 8, the food bowls will be moved an additional 1 foot apart.

### **CARO RALLY BRACE NOVICE (CRBN)**

- The dogs must have earned a CARO Rally Novice (CRN) title.
- Food or toys may be used at this level as described in the CARO handbook.
- Courses will be designed using rules and regulations governing the designing of Novice courses.
- The Novice level is done on leash, dogs are on their own individual leashes or coupled and on a single leash throughout the course.
- Cones- See explanation above.

### **CARO RALLY BRACE ADVANCED (CRBA)**

- The dogs must have earned a CARO Rally Advanced (CRA) title and a CARO Novice Brace title (CRBN).
- Food or toys may be used at this level as described in the CARO handbook.
- Dogs will be on their own individual leashes or coupled to enter and exit the ring. They will be judged off leash.
- Courses will be designed using rules and regulations governing the designing of Advance courses.
- Cones, Jumps - See explanation above.

### **CARO RALLY BRACE EXCELLENT (CRBX)**

- The dogs must have earned a CARO Rally Excellent (CRX) title and a CARO Advanced Brace (CRBA) title.
- Food or Toys may not be used at this Level.
- Dogs will be on their own individual leashes or coupled to enter and exit the ring. They will be judged off leash.
- Courses will be designed using rules and regulations governing the designing of Excellent courses.
- Cones, Jumps, Tunnels, Weaves- See explanation above.

### **CARO RALLY BRACE VERSATILITY (CRVB)**

- A dog must have earned a Caro Rally Versatility (CRV) title and a CARO Excellent Brace title (CRBX).
- Food or Toys may not be used at this Level.
- Dogs will be on their own individual leashes or coupled to enter and exit the ring. They will be judged off leash.
- Courses will be designed using rules and regulations governing the designing of Versatility courses.
- Cones, Tunnels, Weaves- See explanation above.

### **CARO RALLY BRACE VERSATILITY EXCELLENT (CRBVX)**

- A dog must have earned a Caro Rally Versatility Brace (CRBV) title
- Food or Toys may not be used at this Level.
- Dogs will be on their own individual leashes or coupled to enter and exit the ring. They will be judged off leash.
- Courses will be designed using rules and regulations governing the designing of Versatility Excellent courses.
- Cones, Jumps, Tunnels, Weaves- See explanation above.