

**The Saint Rocco's Treats**  
**Team Relay Briefing**  
**US Open 2024**  
**Judge Mike Murphy**

All rules in the UK Agility International Rules & Regulations apply to the Relay class. This briefing contains reminders as well as additional information specific to this course.

Dogs will run small to tall in the relay. If dogs are jumping the same jump height in a team, the handlers may choose the order of the dogs. The Team Relay class will consist of Tunnels and Jumps only. Running order for the final will be a random draw with adjustments to reduce the jump height changes.

A baton exchange between handlers will take place behind the start/finish jumps. The exchange must happen with both handlers and their dogs completely behind the line. Failure to do so will result in 10 faults for a faulted baton exchange. If the second or third dog takes their first obstacle before their handler has the baton in their possession, that dog will be eliminated. In this case, the dog should run their section of the relay and if they do not, 50 time faults will be assessed.

If the baton is dropped or thrown, 10 faults will be assessed, whether inside the baton exchange area or outside of it. If the baton is dropped, the handler must pick up the baton before they continue on course. Failure to pick up the baton will result in the dog being eliminated. In addition, if the dog takes an obstacle before the handler has picked up the baton, the dog will be eliminated. If 2 dogs are on the course at the same time, this will incur an elimination. If a dog grabs the baton, this will incur an elimination. Once a dog and handler have finished and passed the baton, they must remain in the exchange area within the ring or be assessed a 100 point fault. They may also restrain or leash their dogs after the baton exchange. If the handler leaves the exchange area without the baton, their dog will be eliminated if it takes an obstacle on course before the handler retrieves the baton.

The handler waiting in the exchange area may hold or restrain their dog in any way (including holding the dog in their arms), providing it's not deemed abusive or harsh by the judge, in which case that dog will be eliminated. The handler waiting in the exchange area to run may have their dog on lead.

If the dog is eliminated, it will be given the maximum score of 50 faults. The clock is still running, so no time penalty is needed. The handler must make a sportsman-like attempt to finish the rest of the course correctly. If the judge deems that an eliminated handler is attempting to gain a time advantage by returning to the exchange area without correctly completing the course, the judge will add 50 seconds to the team's time.