Canadian Association of Rally Obedience

Board Meeting Minutes for the Month of September 2025

In Attendance:

Chair - Patricia Hunt
Vice Chair - Kate Zinggl
Treasurer - Verlaine Murphy
Secretary - Maria Adams
Western Director - Julia Schwark
Ontario Director - Lilian Cook
Eastern Director - Alexandra McGowan
Eastern Director (Observing) - Saundra Clow

Absent:

Prairies Director – Vacant

Exec at Large – Jessica Cohen

Key Dates:

September 6 – Board meeting via Zoom

Discussion Points:

- Design template scale – Icons in the course design template currently appear to be properly scaled, except for sign numbers.
    - Julia will adjust the sign number and see if it is still legible.
    - If the icons are off scale due to differences in PowerPoint versions, the individual judge will need to adjust their own maps.
- Course design clinics should cover more how to design courses (table for another meeting)
- Define 50% course change – half the signs, excluding Start and Finish, must be swapped out or change location. It is recommended that judges attempt to include a variety of signs in their courses.
- Un-bold the “in heel position” in the next handbook update, as we already have detailed criteria for deductions and NQs for imprecise heeling.
- Request to include the angle graphics for the backup, sidestep, fronts, and position from the rally clinic in the Judges Guide section of the handbook (or in the regular rally handbook for all to see)
- Accommodations - discussed concerns raised about accommodations granted for competitors, which in some cases significantly altered the nature of the rally course. The Board emphasizes that judges have the responsibility to ensure

accommodations maintain the integrity of the course, even if it means denying certain requests.
    - As per the Handbook section 1.2.1, it is the competitor's responsibility to include which station they require accommodation for and what behaviour they will be substituting. Then the judge for that round may approve or deny the request.
- Emailed rule change request – Two judges submitted a request to allow bitches in season to compete at in-person events. (Tabled until closer to handbook update)
    - Clarification to be added to Handbooks, hosts should refund for BIS who are required to pull from trials, vet note requirement is at host discretion.
- Possible new candidate to fill the role of Prairie Director, as no one was nominated in the last election.
    - Proposed redistributing the director areas so its even amongst membership, which adds a board member. Board to discuss further and if decided to go with this option, it will be brought to the AGM.
- Board members to review and give feedback on new website and database.
    - Directors to email 5 testers each by Sept 15
- Website update – project is nearing final stages and team is hoping to go live mid-October.

Motions:

2025 066 To order 14 Master Champion, 10 Grand Master Champion, 5 Working Champion, 3 Working Honours Champion, 8 Lifetime Achievement Award, and 7 Supreme title ribbons, with an approximant total of $1900.

2025 067 To remove Dog Circles Left from the Intermediate level, for any courses approved past Oct 1, due to safety concerns with leash tangling particularly for Brace Teams.

2025 068 That the August minutes be approved.

2025 069 To discount current year membership rates beginning Oct 1 to, Professional $20.00 and Regular $11.00.

2025 070 That Jennifer Dunn be accepted as a Versatility/Vers Excellent Judge.

2025 071 For the bookkeeping functions (assuming that the person sitting as Treasurer is knowledgeable in accounting/bookkeeping practices): The bookkeeper will Record transactions monthly in the Moneyworks Accounting package, Record investment income quarterly when the statements are received, Reconcile Scotiabank, Paypal, Visa monthly, Prepare financial statement several times per year upon request of the Treasurer, Advise Treasurer and prepare documentation of payments to be made, Prepare financial statements for AGM, Prepare GST/HST submission documentation for Treasurer. The Fee for these services will be $100/month to be paid quarterly and reviewed if there are significant changes in duties.

2025 072 Make available to the Bookkeeper, Monthly statements from ScotiaBank, Paypal, Visa, as well as quarterly investment statements when received. All expense invoices, statements, transaction information not otherwise received.

2025 073 Establish a Bookkeeper email in Microsoft 365.

2025 074 That Erika Eden be accepted as an NAE Judge.