Canadian Association of Rally Obedience

Board Meeting Minutes for the Month of November 2025

In Attendance:

Chair - Patricia Hunt
Vice Chair - Kate Zinggl
Secretary - Maria Adams
Treasurer – Debby DaCosta

Western Director – Julia Schwark

Ontario Director - Lilian Cook
Quebec and Atlantic Provinces - Saundra Clow
Exec at Large – Jessica Cohen

Absent:

Prairies Director – Vacant

Key Dates:

November 1 – Board meeting via Zoom

Discussion Points:

- Welcome to our new treasurer, Debby DaCosta.
- October minutes approved, Maria to post and send for translation.
- Follow up from previous meetings:
  - New database update, hope to be up and running within a week.
  - Trial Approver has been sending to hosts that all trial paperwork must be submitted electronically, and there will be no fees they apply for trials, and Secretary to add to trial host Facebook page.
  - Judge and Host handbook update – Requires rewrite due to new website, hoping to publish with new website.
  - Judge complaint update - Chair spoke to the judge and provided coaching.
  - Prairies Director search update. - Nobody has applied yet. Secretary, to reply to the Prairie emails temporarily.
- Discussed improving judge training and education, possibly creating online video clinics, also adjusting judge clinics to cover more nuance and practical application as opposed to directly reading from the handbook.
- Yukon club sponsorship – Julia to recommend they submit an application.
  - Possible to have 1 judge fly out and another judge send maps; board will assign the judge to design courses.

- Virtual trial lessons learned
    - In Working heel position as up to 45 degrees. There are no deductions for crooked sits or additional cues, so teams can re-cue if the dog sits crooked.
        - Resolve with judge training.
    - Accommodation requests:
        - Keep the integrity of the courses – Remind judges in clinics
        - Explain to competitors more clearly
    - Vet Notes may be requested by a judge on a case-by-case basis. No change, as stated in handbook
- Clarifications and Amendments:
    - Call dog sign – handler must fully pass the sign. - To be amended in next handbook update and include in amendment document.
    - Leash may go in any pocket. - p16 update for future handbooks.
    - Jump lines, dogs may cross the 5' line before crossing the 10' line. To be judged as written in the sign description.
    - In Working, the leash must be removed before interacting with the first station.
    - If a retrieve item bounces out of the ring in Working the handler may go get it. The dog must stay, to be the original attempt. If the dog doesn't hold their sit-stay, it is a Try Again or Not Yet. If the dog leaves the ring, it is a Not Yet.
    - Drop On Recall does not require a 5' line to pass, as it is not needed to judge the exercise. – Resolve with judge training.
- The new Code of Conduct to go out with our new website.
    - Will also be added to official rules to Facebook groups.

Motions:

2025 079 That the October minutes be approved

2025 080 That Jade Robertson Zwingli be accepted as a Versatility/Versatility Excellent judge.

2025 081 That section 3.2.5 bullet 5 of the Rally Handbook be amended to read: For off-leash levels where the handler chooses to keep the leash with them, the leash must be completely concealed in a pocket.

2025 082 To reinvest GIC's with Scotia Bank as soon as transfer of treasurer transpires.

2025 083 To implement a smaller ring size pilot programme

2025 084 Motion that Lois Hammond be accepted as a NAE judge.

2025 085 Motion that Lois Hammond be accepted as a Working judge.