Canadian Association of Rally Obedience

Board Meeting Minutes for the Month of July 2026

In Attendance:

Chair – Patricia Hunt
Vice Chair – Kate Zinggl
Secretary – Maria Adams
Ontario Director – Lilian Cook
Eastern Director – Saundra Clow
Exec at Large – Jessica Cohen

Absent:

Treasurer – Debby DaCosta
Western Director – Julia Schwark
Prairies Director – Vacant

Key Dates:

July 4 – Board meeting via Zoom

Discussion Points:

- Effective 1 August 2026, trial application fees will be non-refundable. In the unlikely event that a club encounters extenuating circumstances, they may contact Trial Approvals to discuss the potential for reasonable accommodations.
- Vice Chair provided a summary from Spring Virtual Trial surveys
  - New simplified course approval process was a success with the judges
  - Course approver concerns have been heard and will result in a slight process update for the Fall Virtual Trial (without implementing a second approver)
  - Overall judges and VT community have been very positive about their trial experience
- Discussed ensuring clear communication of expected deadlines for judge records and data entry, so competitors are aware of the timeline prior to the Virtual Trial.
- Vice chair gave a course design software update.

Motions:

2026 048 That the June 2026 minutes be approved and published.

2026 049 To increase the course approval fees for virtual trial courses to $3.00 per review, per course, to a maximum of 2 reviews.

2026 050 That the Virtual Trial Chair to receive $100 flat fee, per virtual trial.

2026 051 To require virtual trial judges to submit records, 5 days after the end of trial.

2026 052 To remove "Cone exercises may be entered at up to a 90° angle." from the course design checklist.

2026 053 Effective 1 August 2026, trial application fees will be non-refundable. In the unlikely event that a club encounters extenuating circumstances, they may contact Trial Approvals to discuss the potential for reasonable accommodations.

2026 054 That Alexandra McGowan be accepted as a Working judge.

2026 055 That Marci Case be granted permission as part of the small ring pilot project to host a trial at a venue with a ring size of 24' × 46' at Bluewater Dog Sports in Ontario.

2026 056 That Brenda Oliver be accepted as a Working judge.

2026 057 To approve judges assignments for the Fall Virtual trial as shared via email on July 10

2026 058 That Lisa Fox be accepted as a Working judge.

2026 059 That Nicole Wiebe be appointed the Fall 2026 Virtual Trial Secretary

2026 060 That the Data Entry job posting written in the July 18 be sent to membership on July 20.

2026 061 Effective 9 August, the role of Data Entry to receive a $500 per month for trial results and competitor/trial official communication, as well as $10 per package for shipping ribbons to competitors.

2026 062 That Nadia Breckon be accepted as a NAE judge.

2026 063 That Ciara Stefaniuk be accepted as a NAE judge.

2026 064 That Erika Eden be accepted as a Working judge.

2026 065 To approve the Trial Secretary contract for the Fall 2026 Virtual Trial.