



GCR

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

2025



COVER DESIGN BY:
CAYTI & CHRIS COSTELLO

Hello
Costello

PHOTO BY: MICHAEL LEPPALA | @MIKEYLEPPSPHOTO



AMERICAN RALLY®
ASSOCIATION

General Competition Rules
American Rally Association

2025 Edition
Through ARA Bulletin 2025-7

ARA reserves the right, upon written application, to grant specific, limited exemptions to these regulations where it can be shown that the exemption is in the best interests of the sport or in the interest of safe conduct of the sport. Granted exemptions shall be communicated in writing by the ARA President or, in the case of an ARA National Championship event, the ARA President or the Competition Director and be included in the event's Supplementary Regulations or posted on the event's Official Notice Board.

Table of Contents

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES	1
1.1 National Control of Competition	1
1.2 ARA Rally General Competition Rules	1
1.3 Interpretation of Rules	1
1.4 Exercise of the Powers of ARA	1
1.5 Notices	1
1.6 Alteration of Rules and Regulations	1
1.7 Application of these GCRs	2
1.8 Order of Precedence in Application of Rules and Regulations	2
1.9 Competition Vehicles.....	2
2. TERMINOLOGY.....	3
3. COMPETITIONS IN GENERAL.....	7
3.1 Organization of Events	7
3.2 Sanctioned Event	7
3.3 Required Approval.....	7
3.4 Knowledge of and Submission to the Rules.....	7
3.5 Right of Observation.....	8
3.6 Official Documents	8
3.7 Announcement to be made on all Official Documents	8
3.8 Authorization of Description	8
3.9 Postponement, Abandonment or Cancellation of a Competition.....	8
3.10 Advertising and Promotion of Events	8
3.11 Commercial Rights	9
4. ORGANIZATION OF EVENTS	10
4.1 Necessary Permission and Approval	10
4.2 Recognition of National and Local Authorities.....	10
4.3 Application for an Organizing Permit.....	10
4.4 Permit Fees	10
4.5 Supplementary Regulations	10
4.6 Alteration of Supplementary Regulations	11
4.7 Contents of Program	11
4.8 Entry	11
4.9 Withdrawal.....	11
4.10 Contents of Entry Form	12
4.11 Closing of Entries	12
4.12 Entry Containing a False or Incorrect Statement	12
4.13 Refusal of an Entry.....	12
4.14 Conditional Acceptance of Entry	13
4.15 Change of Competition Vehicle.....	13
4.16 Instructions to Competitors.....	13
4.17 Insurance.....	13

4.18 Publication of Results	13
4.19 Payment of Prize Money and Presentation of Awards	13
5. COMPETITORS	15
5.1 Licensing of Competitors	15
5.2 Grant of License	15
5.3 Right to Hold a License	15
5.4 Period of Validity of License	15
5.5 License Fees	15
5.6 Validity of License	15
5.7 Production of License	15
5.8 Medical Responsibility of Driver	16
5.9 Assumed Name	16
5.10 Responsibility of Entrant, Competitors or Others	16
5.11 Alcoholic Beverages	16
5.12 Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs	16
5.13 Competitor Review	16
5.14 Conduct of Entrants, Competitors and Crew	17
6. OFFICIALS AND THEIR DUTIES	18
6.1 Officials	18
6.2 Stewards	18
6.3 Judges of Fact	20
6.4 Technical Director	21
7. PENALTIES	22
7.1 Breach of GCRs	22
7.2 Penalties for Participation in Unauthorized Competition	22
7.3 Penalties	22
7.4 Imposition of Penalties	22
7.5 Sentence of Reprimand or Fine	23
7.6 Time Limit for Payment of Fines	23
7.7 Allocation of Proceeds or Fines	23
7.8 Penalty of Time	23
7.9 Sentence of Exclusion	23
7.10 Loss of Accrued Points	24
7.11 Sentence of Suspension	24
7.12 Sentence of Disqualification	24
7.13 Statement of Reasons for Suspension or Disqualification	25
7.14 Suspension or Disqualification of Competition Vehicles	25
7.15 Loss of Award	25
7.16 Amendment of Placings and Awards	25
7.17 Publication of Penalty	25
7.18 Remission of Sentence	25
8. INQUIRIES	26

8.1 Submitted to Steward of the Event.....	26
8.2 Time Limits for Submission of Inquiries.....	26
8.3 Type of Inquiries.....	26
8.4 Replies to Inquiries.....	26
9. PROTESTS.....	28
9.1 Right to Protest.....	28
9.2 Submission of a Protest	28
9.3 Adjudication of Protests.....	28
9.4 Hearing of Protests.....	29
9.5 Protest Meetings	29
9.6 Distribution of Prizes	30
9.7 Re-run	30
9.8 Judgement.....	30
9.9 Ill-founded and Vexatious Protests.....	30
9.10 Steward(s)	30
9.11 Protest Fees	31
10. APPEALS	32
10.1 Right of Appeal.....	32
10.2 Jurisdiction of the Appeal Board.....	32
10.3 Time Limits for Notices of Appeal.....	32
10.4 Effect of Giving Notice of Appeal.....	32
10.5 Form of Appeal.....	32
10.6 Hearing of Appeal.....	33
10.7 Judgement of Appeal	33
10.8 Order as to Appeal Fees and Costs	33
10.9 Publication of Judgement	33
10.10 Appeal Fees	33

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1.1 National Control of Competition

ARA is affiliated with United States Auto Club (USAC) and through USAC with the Automobile Competition Committee of the United States (ACCUS) which is the National Sporting Authority (ASN) for the United States as appointed by the International Automobile Federation (FIA).

ARA shall authorize, sanction and supervise rallysport activities and do any and all things which "in its judgement" are conducive to the well-being and conduct of rallysport events held under its permits.

1.2 ARA Rally General Competition Rules

ARA has established these Rally General Competition Rules, hereafter referred to as the GCRs.

1.3 Interpretation of Rules

ARA shall be empowered to decide any question concerning the interpretation of these GCRs subject to the right of appeal (if any) under these GCRs.

1.4 Exercise of the Powers of ARA

Judicial powers and functions, such as the hearing of protests, appeals, disciplinary hearings or an ARA ordered investigation, and including the penalty to be imposed for a breach of the ARA's Code of Conduct, the sporting regulations of ARA may be exercised by the ARA President, a Steward, a Stewarding group or other group (whose number shall be not less than three) so appointed.

The decisions of such groups shall be final and not subject to review except an appeal of a Stewards' decision as a result of a protest hearing. No member of a judicial board shall have taken part, except as a Steward, in the competition concerned about which a decision is to be given, or if he/she has already participated in a decision on the matter in question or if he/she is directly or indirectly concerned in such matter.

1.5 Notices

Any communications required under these GCRs to be sent to any entrant or competitor shall be sent to the postal or email address on the entry form or, if the competitor is the holder of a license issued by ARA, to the address on the license. Any communications to be sent to a Promoter or Organizer shall be sent to the address on the relevant application for an Organizing Permit. Any communications so sent shall be deemed to have reached the appellant.

1.6 Alteration of Rules and Regulations

ARA reserves to itself the right at any time and from time to time to alter these General Competition Rules or its Rally Regulations or to promulgate special rules in the form of a bulletin. Such alterations or additions will be published in the form of revised manuals or bulletins. Bulletins issued by ARA shall form a part of these GCRs or the Rally Regulations to which they apply, and are effective on the date issued until issuance of a new rule book unless amended or revoked earlier by ARA.

1.7 Application of these GCRs

These GCRs and the Rally Regulations shall govern all rallies sanctioned by ARA.

1.8 Order of Precedence in Application of Rules and Regulations

GCR 1.7 above specifies which regulations apply to the various types of rallies; the following defines the order of precedence of these rules and regulations.

- a) These Rally General Competition Rules including applicable bulletins;
- b) The Rally Regulations including applicable bulletins;
- c) ARA Bulletins;
- d) Series Supplementary Regulations (if applicable);
- e) Event Supplementary Regulations.

Where conflict arises between these documents, the superior (first mentioned) document shown in the above list shall apply, except that bulletins may modify superior documents. With the approval of the ARA Board or any other person so delegated, organizers may seek limited event exemptions to both these GCRs and the Rally Regulations. Such exemptions shall be specifically noted in the Event Supplementary Regulations.

1.9 Competition Vehicles

1.9.1 Dangerous Construction

The Steward(s) of the Event may exclude any competition vehicle the construction or condition of which is deemed to be dangerous. In events where a steward is not required, the organizer or event scrutineer shall have this right.

1.9.2 Suspension or Disqualification of a Particular Competition Vehicle

ARA may suspend or disqualify a particular competition vehicle due to a breach of these GCRs and/or the Rally Regulations by the entrant.

1.9.3 Advertisements on Competition Vehicles

Advertisements are permitted on competition vehicles in competition within the limits laid down in the current Rally Regulations. Name(s) of the entrant, driver(s), co-driver/navigator(s) and/or service crew may be inscribed on the automobile. These inscriptions shall not be considered advertising. No sign, label, lettering or other graphic image shall be so arranged as to make competition numbers or other identification illegible to officials or marshals at an event to the satisfaction of the Steward(s) of the Event.

2. TERMINOLOGY

The following descriptions are adopted for use in these GCRs, in the Rally Regulations, in all Event Supplementary Regulations and for general use.

ARA

American Rally Association. An organization which is a sanctioning body for rallysport in the U.S.A.

ARA Affiliated Organization

Any organization in the USA which is affiliated with ARA.

ASN

A National Automobile Club or other National Body recognized by the FIA as holder of sporting authority in a country. In the U.S.A. this organization is ACCUS.

Category

The grouping of classes in which competitors are awarded championship points at eligible events.

Clerk Of The Course

The organizer(s) of an event will appoint a Clerk of the Course or equivalent (and one or more assistants) to be responsible for conducting all or part of the competition in accordance with ARA applicable regulations and the Event Supplementary Regulations.

Championship

A series of events in which competitors are eligible to score points toward end of season awards.

Club

Any body recognized by ARA as a club.

Co-driver

In a performance rally, the person normally charged with interpreting the route and timing instructions. Also known as the navigator.

Competition

A contest in which an automobile with crew, takes part and which is of a competitive nature.

Competition Vehicle

The race vehicle in which the competitors use to compete in a rallysport event which has been deemed safe and in compliance with ARA technical requirements and specifications.

Competitor

A person who competes in any event, whether as a driver, or co-driver.

Course

The route to be followed by competitors in a competition.

Crew

A crew is made up of two persons designated on the official entry form as Driver and Co-Driver.

Discipline

All ARA competitions are categorised by type of activity or "discipline" (e.g., performance rally, rallycross, rally-sprint, etc.).

Driver

A person nominated as the driver of a competition vehicle in any rally. This person is assumed to be the entrant unless otherwise stated during the entry process.

Duration Of A Rally

Any rally starts with the registration and/or scrutineering (including, if applicable, checks on the spare parts of the car) and ends after one of the following time limits, whichever is the later:

- a) The time limit for protests or appeals has passed and/or the end of any hearing.
- b) End of the administrative checking and post-event scrutineering carried out in accordance with the Rally Regulations.
- c) The end of the prize giving.

Entrant

A person or organization whose entry is accepted for any competition sanctioned by ARA.

Entry

Unless otherwise stated, for an Entry to be complete it must include the Entrant, Driver, Co-Driver, Competition Vehicle, and Class.

Event

A program of one or more competitions.

FIA

The Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (The International Federation of National Automobile Clubs).

Force Majeure

A condition or conditions over which the organizers have no control, yet plays a part in determining the outcome of a competition.

Grievance

An inquiry, protest, appeal, or similar action.

Leg

A leg is a major portion of a rally designated by the organizers as such in the Event Supplementary Regulations and/or the route book whereby it is necessary to complete the leg within maximum lateness.

License

A certificate of registration issued by ARA or an ASN or other sanctioning body for rallies, to any person wishing to take part in competitions.

National Event

A competition which is open only to competitors holding an appropriate license issued or recognized by ARA and conducted under the organizing permit issued by ARA and is on a national championship calendar.

Neutralization

Time during which the crews are stopped and held by the rally organizers for whatever reason.

Open Event

A competition in which competitors are comprised of members of any recognized motorsport organization or the public at large.

Organizer(s)

A person, persons or group approved by ARA and authorized to organize an event on their behalf. Where an organizer is appointed to act on behalf of promoters, such organizer shall take the place of such promoters for the purposes of these GCRs and shall be deemed to be the agent of the Promoters.

Organizing Permit

A document, granted solely by ARA, authorizing the organization and holding of a competition.

Parc Exposé

A location where competitors are required to display their competition vehicle for public viewing.

Parc Fermé

An area in which no repairs or outside assistance is possible, except in the cases expressly provided for by the Rally Regulations, the Event Supplementary Regulations or by special permission of the Steward(s) of the Event.

Performance Rally

Also known as Special Stage Rally. An event which takes place on both public and controlled roads. Results are mainly determined by the length of time taken to complete the stage portion of the event.

Program

A document prepared by the promoters and/or organizers of an event for the purpose of informing the participants and spectators about such a meeting.

Promoter(s)

Any person or body (other than organizers) proposing to hold or holding an event.

Rally Regulation

A set of regulations, in addition to these GCRs, which shall be issued from time to time by ARA to provide additional rules and regulations outside of these GCRs to further define specific types of rally events and how they are to be conducted. The Rally Competition Regulations (RCRs) are the Rally Regulations for Performance Rally.

Regional Event

A competition which is open only to competitors holding an appropriate license issued or recognized by ARA and conducted under the organizing permit issued by ARA and is on a regional championship calendar.

Regrouping

A stop scheduled by the organizers between 2 time controls to enable the schedule to be followed on the one hand, and on the other, to regroup the cars still in the rally and

eliminate or reduce gaps in the running order. The stopping time may vary from car to car.

Restricted Competition

An event which is confined to persons having some particular qualification.

Sanctioned Event

Any event or competition authorized and approved by ARA and having the appropriate organizing permit if one is required by these GCRs or the Rally Regulations.

Section

All the parts of a rally between:

- a) The start and the first regrouping halt or service control.
- b) Two successive regrouping halts or service controls (or combination).
- c) The last regrouping halt or service control and the finish of the leg or the rally.

Service Crew

A person or persons registered by an entrant at an event to be able to perform service on a competition vehicle entered in the competition.

Speed Event

An event in which vehicles run individually (even though two or more may be in motion simultaneously) and in which the relative performance of the competitors is assessed by timing them over a given distance.

Stage

A portion of a performance rally route, run on controlled roads, which is used as a speed test.

Steward

ARA official charged with representing ARA at an event by enforcing these GCRs and all other regulations governing that event.

Supplementary Regulations

Regulations, drawn up by the organizers of a competition and approved by ARA, with the object of defining details of such competitions. They are supplementary to these GCRs and the Rally Regulations.

Technical Director

ARA official charged with technical matters relating to vehicle eligibility in ARA events as well as maintaining the applicable sections of the ARA national regulations.

Time Card

Card intended for the stamps and entry of times recorded at the different control points scheduled on the itinerary.

Transit

A portion of a performance rally route which may be run on public roads open to normal traffic.

USAC

United States Auto Club, a sanctioning body for auto racing competition.

3. COMPETITIONS IN GENERAL

3.1 Organization of Events

ARA-sanctioned events may officially be organized by any person/persons or group so approved by ARA

3.2 Sanctioned Event

Any event organized as per GCR 3.1 above and having an event insurance certificate satisfactory to all sanctioning requirements is an ARA sanctioned event and is open to entrants and ARA officials (subject to other provisions of these GCRs).

3.3 Required Approval

The name or emblem of ARA shall be associated only with events sanctioned by ARA. Organizers shall not distribute entry forms or Supplementary Regulations for an ARA event prior to obtaining an ARA sanction.

3.4 Knowledge of and Submission to the Rules

Every person, body, group of persons, etc., organizing a competition or taking part therein shall, by doing so or by and upon applying for an organizing permit or by and upon applying for a license from ARA or by and upon entering a competition, be deemed to have and recognize that they have:

- a) Made themselves acquainted with these GCRs;
- b) Submitted themselves without reserve to the consequences resulting from these GCRs and any subsequent alteration thereof;
- c) Renounced the right to have recourse to any arbitrator or tribunal not provided for in the GCRs;
- d) Agreed to exonerate and keep indemnified the Promoters, ARA and its subsidiaries, USAC, ACCUS, FIA, and their respective agents from and against all liability whatsoever to any such person or body or group of persons respectively in respect of, or in connection with any meeting, competition or event held under these GCRs, from whatever cause arising or alleged to arise and notwithstanding that the same may have been contributed to, or occasioned by, the negligence of the said bodies, their agents, officials, or representatives;
- e) In the case of entrants for and competitors in events, they shall be deemed to have agreed in the circumstances aforesaid to exonerate and keep indemnified all and any other competitors, or agents from and against all liability whatsoever to such entrants or competitors in connection with the driving of their competition vehicles or any other act, omission or occurrence during the course of a competition;
- f) Agreed as set out in sub-paragraphs (d) and (e) of this Rule with each and all the persons or bodies referred to in those sub-paragraphs and so that each and any of those persons or bodies shall be entitled to the benefit of such agreements.

3.5 Right of Observation

ARA reserves the right to designate individuals and/or ARA steward(s) to observe and evaluate any competition and/or any person officiating, working or participating in any competition.

3.6 Official Documents

For every competition of a championship series, the Promoters and/or Organizers are responsible for drawing up and publishing Supplementary Regulations.

3.7 Announcement to be made on all Official Documents

All Supplementary Regulations, programs, entry forms, results and advertisements relating to any competition shall bear in a conspicuous manner the following announcement: "Held under the General Competition Rules of ARA".

3.8 Authorization of Description

No event may be described as "International", "National", "Regional", "Championship" or given any title or status which is not authorized by ARA.

3.9 Postponement, Abandonment or Cancellation of a Competition

A meeting or competition forming part of an event shall not be postponed, abandoned or cancelled unless:

a) Provision for so doing is made in the Supplementary Regulations,

Or;

b) The Steward(s) of the Event have so ordered.

In the event of cancellation or postponement for more than twenty-four hours, entry fees shall be returned if so directed by ARA.

3.10 Advertising and Promotion of Events

All advertising or promotional material used in connection with competitions must state that the event is sanctioned by ARA and, if applicable, by the FIA.

Advertising material must be in good taste and must not be misleading or untruthful.

The words "International", "National", "Championship", etc., when used to describe an event or used in the title of an event must be approved by ARA.

Any competitor or other person or body advertising the results of a competition, a series, or a championship must state that the competition was sanctioned by ARA, the exact conditions of the performance referred to, the nature of the competition, the category and the class of competition vehicle, and the position or results obtained, or such additional information as ARA may require.

All advertisements that are published prior to the issuance of Official Results by the Promoter(s) or organizer(s) must contain the words "Subject to Official Confirmation".

The publication of an advertisement relating to the results of a competition that is drawn up in such a way that it could mislead the public, or the infraction of this Rule (whether by way of omission from or addition to the particulars required to be stated) shall render

the person(s) or body by whose authority or on whose behalf the advertisement is published or issued liable to the penalties provided by these GCRs and may entail the infliction of a penalty on the person(s) responsible for authorizing the advertisement.

Publication under this Rule shall be construed to mean any or all of the following:

- a) The airing of commercial message by means of radio, television film or electronic formats;
- b) The publication of printed advertisements in newspapers, magazines other periodicals or electronic formats;
- c) The publication of brochures, booklets, forms, signs or displays.

Competitors who allow their names or photographs to be used in connection with misleading advertising shall be liable to disciplinary action from ARA.

3.11 Commercial Rights

ARA is the sole holder of the commercial rights for visual images, and filming or recording of rallies run under its sanction.

Every person, body, group of persons, etc., organizing a competition or taking part therein shall by doing so or by and upon applying for an organizing permit or by and upon applying for a license from ARA or by and upon entering a competition, be deemed to have and recognize that they:

- a) Recognize that commercial rights from sanctioned events belong to ARA;
- b) Agree that ARA may release or use particulars concerning participants in any of the events including images of the participants for commercial purposes by ARA;
- c) Agree that ARA may access and use these images or film as part of its grievance and disciplinary proceedings as well as in determining violation/compliance of its sporting regulations.

Competitors may install in-car cameras and film/record their participation in the event subject to the above regulations.

4. ORGANIZATION OF EVENTS

4.1 Necessary Permission and Approval

No competition shall be held unless ARA has signified its approval by granting an organizing permit or has waived the necessity of a permit under its Regulations. ARA may attach conditions to the granting of a permit or decline to grant a permit or withdraw a permit without stating any reason.

4.2 Recognition of National and Local Authorities

A competition may be held either on the road or on the track or both, but no permit shall be granted by ARA or competition be held unless the promoters or organizers shall have first obtained such official permission as may be necessary from the relevant governmental or local authority. Competitions taking place on roads open to the public must conform to the traffic laws of the jurisdiction in which they take place. Any breach of such laws by a competitor during a competition shall be a breach of these GCRs and may be dealt with accordingly.

4.3 Application for an Organizing Permit

For every regional or national championship event, an application for an Organizing Permit shall be made in writing. The application must state:

- a) The name and address of the applicant;
- b) The body or person on whose behalf the application is made and the official position held by the applicant;
- c) The nature of the competition for which the permit is required;
- d) The date(s) and place(s) of the proposed competition;
- e) In the case of an application for a permit to hold a speed event on a track or circuit which is not already approved by USAC an application for approval of the track or circuit must be made to ARA and this application must be accompanied by a plan of the track or circuit to a scale of not less than 2.5 inches to the mile. This plan shall give details of the course and indicate the proposed position of spectators, fencing and other safety arrangements.

For complete details on application procedures, see the Rally Regulations.

4.4 Permit Fees

The scale of fees payable to ARA on granting of an organizing permit is laid down by ARA.

4.5 Supplementary Regulations

Competitions sanctioned by ARA must be run in compliance with the rules and provisions provided by ARA. However, organizers must provide for every event a set of Supplementary Regulations which need not repeat and may not, under any circumstances, conflict with these GCRs and the Rally Regulations unless approval for specific exemptions has been given as per GCR 1.8.

The Supplementary Regulations must contain the following information:

- a) The name and nature of the proposed competition(s);
- b) The name and address of the promoters and/or organizers;
- c) An announcement that the proposed competitions(s) will be "Held under the ARA General Competition Rules and the ARA Rally Regulations";
- d) The place, date and times of the event;
- e) The dates of opening and closing of entries and how and where they shall be made;
- f) The amount of the entry fee and any other fees (organizer supplied course notes);
- g) The names of the Steward(s) of the Event and other officials if available;
- h) All such other information and requirements as shall from time to time be specified in the relevant Rally Regulations.

4.6 Alteration of Supplementary Regulations

No alteration shall be made to the Supplementary Regulations after the commencement of the period for receiving entries unless:

- a) ARA and all competitors already entered agree to the alteration, or;
- b) The Steward(s) of the Event so decide for reasons of safety or force majeure, or;
- c) The Steward(s) of the Event may so authorize under exceptional circumstance.

4.7 Contents of Program

If a program, spectator guide or similar document is published, it shall contain the following information:

- a) A statement that the event is held under the General Competition Rules of ARA;
- b) The name of the Promoters and/or Organizers;
- c) The place and date of the event;
- d) A short description and schedule of the proposed competition;
- e) A description of the arrangements for spectators;
- f) Advertising space for ARA sponsors as mandated by ARA;

4.8 Entry

An entry made and accepted in accordance with these GCRs and any relevant Supplementary Regulations is a contract between an Entrant ~~a competitor~~ and the promoters or organizers by which the competitor agrees to take part in the competition entered unless prevented by force majeure and the organizers agree to comply with the conditions of entry provided that the competitor has made every effort to take part in the event. A breach of such contract may be treated as a breach of these GCRs.

4.9 Withdrawal

An entry may be withdrawn:

- a) without penalty, up to 14 days before the closing of entry;

- b) with \$100 of the entry fee in penalty, unless defined in the supplementary regulations, less than 14 days before the closing of entry;
- c) with up to 100% of the entry fee in penalty after the closing of entry (percentage at the organizer's discretion).

The withdrawal shall be made by telephone or electronic means. An entrant or competitor accepted to take part in a competition who withdraws other than in the above manner or who does not take part in that competition but takes part in another on the same day may be held in breach of these GCRs.

4.10 Contents of Entry Form

Entry forms shall contain the following:

- a) Space for the full names and address of entrants and competitors;
- b) Space for the signature of the entrant and competitors;
- c) The following statement or similar: "If an entrant or competitor is under the legal age of majority, this form must be countersigned by the appropriate parent or guardian.";
- d) A statement to the effect that the event is held under the General Competition Rules of ARA;
- e) Any other information required by the Supplementary Regulations to be stated on the form;
- f) Applicable series or event waivers to be signed or acknowledged.

4.11 Closing of Entries

The date(s) and time for the closing of entries shall be specified in the Supplementary Regulations for the event.

- a) Entrants may request changes after the close of entries and prior to the first Stewards Meeting as specified in the Supplementary Regulations for situations of hardship or force majeure. Any change to an entry after the close of entries must be approved by the Steward(s). Only the entered Driver or Co-Driver will be allowed to make this request.
- b) Incomplete entries at the time of closing of entries will be considered null and void and subject to entry fee forfeiture.

4.12 Entry Containing a False or Incorrect Statement

An entry which contains a false or incorrect statement shall be null and void and the entrant may be deemed guilty of a breach of these GCRs. The entrant may also be subject to entry fee forfeiture.

4.13 Refusal of an Entry

In the case of an entry for a competition being refused by the organizing committee, the latter must notify the applicant of such refusal stating the grounds for such a refusal. If an advance entry for any competition is refused, notification of such refusal shall be sent to the entrant by telephone, by electronic means and/or by mail at the address given on the entry form as soon as possible and at least five days before the event. If

notification is by telephone, it shall be confirmed by electronic means or by mail. In the case of late entries or entries received at the event, the entrant shall be notified of a refusal immediately upon the entry being received.

4.14 Conditional Acceptance of Entry

Supplementary Regulations may provide that entries may be accepted under certain clearly stated conditions. Conditional acceptance shall be notified to the entrant by letter, telephone or electronic means not later than the date following the closing of entries. If the number of entries exceeds the maximum number of competitors laid down in the Supplementary Regulations, those to be accepted shall be selected in the manner specified by the Supplementary Regulations. If no manner is specified, they shall be selected as the organizers shall decide.

4.15 Change of Entry

With approval of the organizers, a change of Entry is permitted up to the close of entries. Only the entered Driver or Co-driver is allowed to make such a request.

A change of Entry after the close of entries and prior to posting of the Final Start Order for the first control of the event may be approved by the Stewards, subject to GCR 4.11.

No change of Entry is permitted after the publication of the Final Start Order for the first control of the event.

4.15 Change of Competition Vehicle

~~Subject to anything to the contrary in the applicable regulations, after the closing of entries publication of the program, the Steward(s) of the Event may authorize the substitution in an event of a competition vehicle different from that specified on the entry form, provided that the Supplementary Regulations are complied with in all other respects.~~

4.16 Instructions to Competitors

Instructions to competitors may be issued to deal with particular points arising after the issue of the Supplementary Regulations, but if and so far as such instructions are contrary to these GCRs, other applicable regulations or the Supplementary regulations, they shall be null and void, unless authorized by the Steward(s) of the Event.

4.17 Insurance

It is a condition of Event Insurance provided by the ARA insurance policy that waivers in the form specified by the insurance company must be signed by all persons who participate in an event as a worker, official, competitor, service crew or who are permitted to enter areas normally closed to the public or spectators

4.18 Publication of Results

Either organizers of events or ARA on their behalf shall publish Official Results as detailed in the Rally Regulations.

4.19 Payment of Prize Money and Presentation of Awards

The organizers shall distribute all prize money to the entrants as promptly as possible after the official results of a competition shall have been arrived at, or within such period

as ARA shall allow. Any awards shall be presented within a like period unless the Supplementary Regulations specify a particular date or occasion for presentation.

5. COMPETITORS

5.1 Licensing of Competitors

Every person who makes an entry for or who competes in an event held under ARA rules shall be in possession of a current, valid ARA competition license of the grade required for that type of event.

5.2 Grant of License

Application for and the granting of a license shall be governed by the conditions laid down in the current Rally Regulations. The holding of a license by an individual is a privilege and not a right. A license issued by ARA may, for sufficient cause, be withdrawn or suspended at any time.

An ARA issued license shall be suspended by failure to pay an ARA levied fine within the specified time period or by failure to pay outstanding fees to an event. Such suspension shall remain until all payments are received.

5.3 Right to Hold a License

The principle that will apply in all cases is that any applicant who qualifies for a license within these GCRs and the Rally Regulations shall be entitled to such a license.

5.4 Period of Validity of License

Licenses shall be valid from the date of issue to the end of the current calendar year, or such other date(s) ARA may specify.

5.5 License Fees

For a license to be granted by ARA, a fee shall be paid to ARA. License is not valid until paid in full.

5.6 Validity of License

- a) A competition license granted by ARA does not constitute a certificate of competency of the holder. No driver, though holder of such a license, who is suffering from any disability, permanent, temporary, or otherwise, which prejudicially affects the normal control of his/her facilities shall compete in any event. Provided that where a driver is suffering from a permanent disability, the nature of which he/she has declared to ARA who have nevertheless issued a license, such disability shall not debar the driver from competing in an event in compliance with any conditions endorsed on his/her license.
- b) If the holder of a license granted by ARA is, during the currency of such license, disqualified from holding a license to drive automobiles on the highways in any state, then his/her license granted under these GCRs shall become null and void and shall forthwith be returned to ARA. ARA may, upon application by the licensee, consider the circumstances under which the disqualification was ordered and, if it thinks fit, authorize the reissue of such competitor's competition license.

5.7 Production of License

A competitor at an event shall produce his/her license on demand to any official of that event.

5.8 Medical Responsibility of Driver

Any driver, co-driver, service crew, media, volunteer, or official who suffers injury or illness that affects his/her medical fitness to participate in events shall report this injury or illness immediately to the Chief of EMS who may order the suspension of competition privileges of ARA license holder or participation in the case of any other participant until the participant has been cleared by their physician. Any participant who suspects that another participant may have suffered an injury or illness is encouraged to bring this to the attention of the Chief of EMS who will decide the course of action. The nature of these decisions must not be taken lightly by the Chief of EMS as their decision may materially affect the results of the event and season. The decision of the Chief of EMS may not be subject to inquiry, protest, or appeal as the participant was suspended for their own safety as well as the safety of other participants and there is no way to re-run the event.

5.9 Assumed Name

If a license is requested in an assumed name, special application therefore shall be made to ARA which may, if it thinks fit, issue a license in such name. A person granted a license in an assumed name shall, so long as he/she holds a license in that name, not take part in any competition except under the name shown on the license.

5.10 Responsibility of Entrant, Competitors or Others

The entrant shall be responsible for all acts or omissions on the part of his/her competitors, or service crew, but each of these shall also be responsible for any infractions of these GCRs, Rally Regulations, Supplementary Regulations or instructions to competitors.

5.11 Alcoholic Beverages

Consumption of alcoholic beverages by any competitor, entrant, service crew member, event worker or official during any day's competition activities at an event is expressly forbidden. Each entrant or competitor shall be responsible for the conduct of his/her crew. Any competitor, crew member or official who has consumed any alcoholic beverage before the end of the day's competition activities shall not participate nor shall he/she be present or remain in any area likely to cause embarrassment to any competitor, crew member, organizer or official.

5.12 Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs

The use of any narcotic or dangerous drug by any competitor, service crew member, event worker or official prior to or during a ARA event, is specifically prohibited. The Steward(s) of the Event may prohibit any individual suspected of being under the influence of any narcotic or dangerous drug from competition in that event and further disciplinary action may be taken by ARA.

5.13 Competitor Review

ARA has the right to convene a court to review a competitor's conduct, car legality, competition record and/or other matters. Such a court shall have the power to invoke penalties as specified in these GCRs and may revoke licenses. The competitor shall have the right to appeal this court decision as specified in these GCRs

5.14 Conduct of Entrants, Competitors and Crew

Every entrant, competitor or crew member at an ARA sanctioned event shall be bound by the ARA Code of Conduct and shall conduct himself/herself according to the highest standards of behavior and sportsmanship, particularly in relationship with other competitors and officials, and in a manner that shall not be prejudicial to the reputation of ARA or to motorsports. Failure to do so may be treated as a breach of these GCRs.

6. OFFICIALS AND THEIR DUTIES

6.1 Officials

6.1.1 Event Officials

The staff of officials whose duty it is to direct and control the competition shall be:

- a) Chairperson/Chairman/Chair
- b) Clerk of the Course
- c) Chief of Emergency Services
- d) Chief of Controls
- e) Chief Scorer
- f) Chief Scrutineer
- g) Stage Captains
- h) Registrar
- i) Chief of Security (Safety Officer)
- j) Chief Radio Marshall (or Chief Communications Officer)
- k) Competitor Relations Officer
- l) Chief of Service

Event Officials may have assistants to whom any of their duties may be delegated.

6.1.2 ARA Officials

Those, when present at an ARA sanctioned event, who will be designated as an official and may have a supervisory role during the competition. These officials may have additional specific duties and authority at an event as outlined in these GCRs and/or the Rally Regulations.

- a) Steward(s) of the Event
- b) President
- c) USAC Officers
- d) ARA Directors

6.2 Stewards

6.2.1 Required Stewards

At least one ARA appointed Steward must be available for all or part of each ARA sanctioned performance rally competition.

6.2.2 Assignment

All Stewards are ARA officials and, as such, receive assignments from and report to the ARA Chief Steward.

6.2.3 Authority and Duties of the Stewards

The Steward(s) of the Event shall be responsible solely to ARA for enforcing compliance with the regulations governing the event.

The Steward(s) shall settle any claim which might arise during an event, under reserve of the right of appeal.

When ARA has appointed more than one Steward, the Stewards shall act as a committee and the Steward appointed as the Senior Steward shall act as chairman of that committee. The Senior Steward is, in particular, responsible for assigning stewarding duties, planning and holding meetings and for ensuring that the event report is prepared and submitted on time. When only one Steward has been appointed, that Steward shall prepare and submit the event report on time.

The Stewards of the Event have power in accordance with these GCRs to:

- a) Settle any protest or dispute arising during an event, subject to the right to appeal;
- b) Inflict penalties of reprimand, fine, time or exclusion;
- c) Prohibit from competing any competitor or any vehicle which they consider to be dangerous;
- d) Exclude from any one competition or from the event any competitor who, or any competition vehicle which, they consider as ineligible to take part therein, or whom they consider guilty of misbehavior or unfair practice;
- e) Penalize and/or order the removal from the rally and its precincts any competitor who refuses to obey the order of a ARA or Event official;
- f) In case of force majeure or for reasons of safety either postpone, abandon, or stop a competition or stage. If a stage is interrupted, the Steward(s) may order the stage to be scored as provided for in the Rally Regulations. If a competition is stopped, the Steward(s) may declare it "no contest" and arrange for it to be restarted or alternatively declare the stage cancelled or the event concluded and determine the results based on the positions of the competitors at that time;
- g) Render judgements or dispositions as required by the Rally Regulations.
- h) Appoint a temporary substitute or substitutes to replace any Steward not able to perform his/her duties;
- i) Enquire into allegations of reckless driving and, if appropriate, penalize the individual and/or refer the matter to ARA for hearing;
- j) Authorize amendments to the Supplementary Regulations for reasons of safety or force majeure;
- k) Accept or refuse any observation reported by a Judge of Fact;
- l) Authorize the change of crew or competition vehicle, where permitted by the Rally Regulations or amending documents;

- m) Authorize the modification of the position of the starting or finishing lines of a stage or the alteration of the schedule at the request of the organizer where necessary to ensure reasonable safety for competitors and spectators;
- n) Authorize the amendment of the results of a competition based on a correction by the Chief Scorer to take into account a penalty assessed against a competitor.
- o) Approve changes to an entry after the closing of entries and prior to the first Stewards Meeting as specified in the Supplementary Regulations.

6.2.4 Steward's Report

As soon as practicable after the conclusion of an event, the Senior Steward shall compile, sign and send a Steward's report to:

- a) The organizer;
- b) The ARA Office;

The report must give the results, together with particulars of all protests lodged, action taken thereon, and penalties imposed together with recommendations in respect of such cases. The report shall also contain the Steward's general comments on the organization of the event and the exercise of their own powers in relation thereto and any other observations as to the conduct of the event which they consider should be made to ARA.

The report shall also contain a copy of the senior steward's instructions to the organizer and details of all accidents in which personal injury or property damage are believed to have occurred, detailing names and addresses of those involved.

6.3 Judges of Fact

6.3.1 Persons at an event who are deemed to be judges of fact:

- a) Event Officials, as listed in GCR 6.1.1
- b) ARA Officials, as listed in GCR 6.1.2
- c) Stage Captains
- d) Observation Control Marshals
- e) Event Volunteers operating within their event duties
- f) ARA-supplied or -required timing, scoring, or tracking equipment

6.3.2 Judges of fact may perform one or more of the following:

- a) report violation of Parc Fermé rules, any false start, shortcutting a stage or striking a chicane to the organizer;
- b) report improper procedure infractions (refer to the appropriate Rally Regulations) to the organizer;
- c) report any violations at an Observation Control to the organizer;
- d) report some other fact of the same type as laid down in the Supplementary Regulations.

6.3.3 A protest may not be made against the decision of a Judge of Fact. His/her decision shall be accepted as final unless corrected as hereinafter provided.

6.3.4 A mistake by a Judge of Fact may be corrected by him/her with the concurrence of the Steward(s) of the Event.

6.3.5 At the close of an event, each Judge of Fact shall give to the Organizer, a report of his/her decisions.

6.4 Technical Director

The ARA Technical Director is appointed by the ARA President and reports directly to and works under the direction of the ARA President.

The Technical Director is responsible for the management of technical matters in terms of competitor personal safety and vehicle eligibility for ARA sanctioned rallies in respect to the following:

- a) Research and development of vehicle eligibility, including establishing future direction
- b) Co-ordination with event scrutineering teams to ensure uniform standards across the country
- c) Management of the rule change process

The ARA Technical Director has the authority to make a final decision regarding eligibility of a vehicle or vehicle component or system. Any decision made by the Technical Director while at an event under the control of a Steward(s), shall be subject to the protest and appeal processes set out in these regulations for that event, but shall be final upon conclusion of the event unless successfully protested or appealed.

7. PENALTIES

7.1 Breach of GCRs

Any of the following offenses, in addition to any other offenses specifically referred to previously or hereafter, shall be deemed to be a breach of these GCRs:

- a) Bribery or attempt to bribe anyone connected with the competition and the acceptance of, or offer to accept, a bribe;
- b) Any action having as its objective participation in the competition of a person or competition vehicle known to be ineligible;
- c) Any fraudulent proceeding or act prejudicial to the interests of ARA or of motorsports generally;
- d) Competing for, accepting, or offering to accept, or advertising an award, in the nature of a title or championship, in respect ARA sanctioned events unless such award is recognized by ARA;
- e) Reckless or dangerous driving;
- f) Failure to obey directions or orders of Event or ARA officials;
- g) Refusing to co-operate with, interfering with, or obstructing the actions of the Steward(s) of the Event or courts in the performance of their duties;
- h) Abusive language or behavior within the area under control of an ARA event organizer;
- i) Failure to honor a check payable to ARA or an ARA event organizer.

7.2 Penalties for Participation in Unauthorized Competition

This is a placeholder for a future section of the GCRs on this topic.

7.3 Penalties

Any promoter, organizer, official, competitor, entrant, or other person or organization committing a breach of:

- a) these GCRs,
- b) the ARA code of conduct,
- c) regulations applicable to an event,
- d) conditions attached to an organizing permit,
- e) instructions to competitors or
- f) Event Supplementary Regulations

May be penalized as hereinafter provided.

7.4 Imposition of Penalties

Penalties may only be assessed by the Steward(s) of the Event or other ARA appointed judicial body. The penalties which may be imposed are, in order of increasing severity, as follows:

- a) Reprimand (which may be verbal or written);
- b) Fine;

- c) Penalty of time;
- d) Exclusion from a competition or event;
- e) Loss of accrued points;
- f) Suspension;
- g) Disqualification;

7.5 Sentence of Reprimand or Fine

A reprimand or a fine may be imposed by ARA or by the Steward(s) of an Event. The maximum amount of a single fine is \$2,500. A fine may be inflicted on any entrant, competitor, assistant, or passenger who does not comply with the requirements of any regulation or with any instruction of the event officials.

7.6 Time Limit for Payment of Fines

Fines shall become due and payable seventy-two hours after being assessed. Any delay in making payment may entail suspension for the period during which a fine remains unpaid (See GCR 5.2).

7.7 Allocation of Proceeds or Fines

The proceeds from all fines, forfeited protest fees and appeal fees resulting from ARA events shall be remitted to the ARA Office.

7.8 Penalty of Time

A time penalty may be imposed by the Steward(s) of the Event on any competitor who does not comply with the requirements of any regulation or with any instruction of the event officials. If the penalty is assessed during the running of the competition written notice of the penalty must be posted on the Official Notice Board as soon as practical. Supplementary Regulations may specify the amount of penalty for certain infractions.

7.9 Sentence of Exclusion

A sentence of exclusion may be pronounced by the Steward(s) of an Event or by ARA and may be retroactive. Before imposing a sentence of exclusion, the Steward(s) of the Event or ARA, as the case may be, must summon the party concerned before them and afford him/her the opportunity of giving his/her own evidence. If the hearing is to be held at an event, officials must deliver written notice personally to the party concerned or the entrant. If the hearing is to be held at a later date, the summons may be delivered personally or by mail and must give reasonable notice and a reasonable opportunity for the party concerned to attend.

A person, body or automobile shall be liable to sentence of exclusion:

- a) If shown to have been forbidden by the proper authority to take part in the event, or;
- b) Having taken any part in any competition, if shown to have been ineligible to do so, to have been eliminated therefrom, or to have been forbidden by the proper authority to participate in the event;
- c) If considered by the Steward(s) of the Event or the officials to be guilty of misbehavior, unfair practice or a violation of regulations.

Any entry fee paid by or in respect of the person, body or automobile sentenced shall be forfeited to the organizers or promoters.

7.10 Loss of Accrued Points

Loss of accrued points may be imposed by ARA. Such loss may be recommended by the Steward(s) of the Event or other ARA court.

7.11 Sentence of Suspension

- a) A sentence of National Suspension may only be pronounced by ARA and shall be reserved for grave offenses.
- b) A person, body, automobile or make of automobile shall be subject to suspension when, for a certain period, forbidden by the proper authority to take part in any competition within the territory of ARA, in the case of a sentence of National Suspension, or within any country represented on the FIA, in the case of International Suspension.
- c) Suspension shall render void any entry made for a competition taking place during such suspension and any entry fee paid or payable shall be forfeited to the organizers or promoters.
- d) Where a sentence of National Suspension relates to a competitor or driver, who holds an ARA license, he/she shall immediately send his/her license to ARA. The license shall be retained by ARA until the suspension expires. For competitors at ARA events who are suspended, they shall be banned from competing in any ARA event for the duration of the suspension and ARA will notify the issuing authority of their competition license of their suspension and the reasons thereof.
- e) Delay in handing in a license in accordance with paragraph (d) of this rule shall automatically result in the extension of the suspension by a period equal to the delay.
- f) Before imposing a sentence of suspension, the party concerned must be summoned either personally, in writing, or by mail giving reasonable notice and reasonable opportunity to attend a hearing at which he/she will be afforded the opportunity of presenting his/her own evidence or calling witnesses in defence or mitigation.

7.12 Sentence of Disqualification

- a) A sentence of National Disqualification may be pronounced by ARA and shall be reserved for exceptionally grave offenses.
- b) A person, body, automobile, or make of automobile shall be subject to disqualification when expressly forbidden by the proper authority to take part in any ARA competition whatsoever.
- c) Where the sentence of disqualification relates to a competitor or driver, he/she shall immediately return his/her license to ARA.
- d) Disqualification shall render void any previous entry made for any competition and any entry fee paid or payable shall be forfeited to the promoters or organizers.

- e) Before imposing a sentence of disqualification, the party concerned must be summoned to a hearing either personally, in writing, or by mail giving reasonable notice and reasonable opportunity to attend a hearing at which he/she will be afforded the opportunity of presenting his/her own evidence or calling witnesses in defence or mitigation.

7.13 Statement of Reasons for Suspension or Disqualification

In notifying sentences of suspension or disqualification to USAC, ACCUS or other sanctioning bodies, reasons for inflicting such a penalty may be given.

7.14 Suspension or Disqualification of Competition Vehicles

A sentence of suspension or disqualification may be pronounced on either a particular automobile or on a make of automobile.

7.15 Loss of Award

Any competitor who may be excluded, is suspended or disqualified in any competition shall thereby forfeit all rights to awards in that competition.

7.16 Amendment of Placings and Awards

In cases of exclusion, suspension or disqualification, the Steward(s) of the Event or the body imposing the penalty shall declare the resulting amendment to the placings and awards and they shall decide whether the next competitor in order (after those placed) shall be advanced.

7.17 Publication of Penalty

- a) ARA, USAC and ACCUS shall have the right to publish or cause to be published a notice stating that it has penalized any person, body, automobile or make of automobile and, if it so desires, the reasons therefore.
- b) The person(s) or body referred to in such notice shall have no right of action against ARA, USAC or ACCUS, another sanctioning body or against any person publishing or printing the notice and may incur disqualification if such action is taken.

7.18 Remission of Sentence

ARA shall have the right to remit the unexpired term of a sentence of National Suspension or Disqualification inflicted under these GCRs on such conditions (if any) as it may think fit.

8. INQUIRIES

8.1 Submitted to Steward of the Event

A Steward of the Event or an official appointed for the purpose shall be available at the start and finish of the event to receive inquiries. He/she shall also be available at the end of any leg of the rally to receive inquiries. Inquiries shall be processed according to the appropriate regulations for the event.

8.2 Time Limits for Submission of Inquiries

Time limits for submission of inquiries are:

- a) Any inquiry by a competitor concerning eligibility of other entrants or their vehicles must be submitted within 30 minutes of the close of registration or scrutineering, whichever is later;
- b) Any inquiry by a competitor concerning the accuracy of a marshal's watch must be submitted within 30 minutes of the competitor's time in at the finish of the rally;
- c) Any inquiry from a competitor concerning a mistake or irregularity occurring during the rally or which only becomes evident during the rally, must be submitted within 30 minutes of the competitor's time in at the finish of the rally;
- d) Any inquiry from a competitor concerning calculations of a score must be submitted within 30 minutes of the time the score was posted or modified;
- e) The senior steward may grant an extension to a competitor's allowable time to submit an inquiry in order to make it physically possible for the competitor to submit the inquiry.

8.3 Type of Inquiries

- a) Written Inquiries
 - 1) All written inquiries shall be submitted on grievance forms obtained from the steward or official appointed for that purpose or inquiry form posted on the notice board.
 - 2) All written inquiries must refer to the pertinent section of the appropriate regulations.

8.4 Replies to Inquiries

- a) The organizer's reply to an inquiry must be submitted to the steward before the due time of arrival of the first car at the finish of the rally or within 30 minutes of the time the inquiry was posted, whichever is later and must contain the reason(s) for their decision(s). The steward will immediately post the organizers response on the official notice board with the time annotated.
- b) The organizer's reply to an inquiry shall state specifically what changes are to be made to the scores as a result of the inquiry. The organizer shall obtain one copy of the reply and give it to the scorer.

- c) The senior steward may grant an extension to the organizer's allowable time to reply to an inquiry in order to make it physically possible for the organizer to prepare the reply.
- d) If the senior steward believes that sufficient extension has been granted to the organizer's allowable time limit to reply to an inquiry or if the inquirer so requests, the senior steward shall retrieve the inquiry from the organizer, mark it "void", mark the time on it and post it. (It should be noted that in so doing, the steward voids the competitor's opportunity to have the inquiry answered by the organizer.)

9. PROTESTS

9.1 Right to Protest

- a) The right to protest lies with any competitor or driver who may consider himself/herself aggrieved by any decision, act or omission of a promoter, organizer, official, competitor, driver or other person connected with any competition in which he/she is or has been taking part, except that there shall be no right to protest against refusal of entry.
- b) Nothing in this Rule shall affect or prejudice the right and duty of any official acting in his/her official capacity to take such action as he/she may deem proper in any circumstances, regardless of whether a protest has been lodged.
- c) Protests against decisions of Judges of Fact in the exercise of their duties will not be admitted.

9.2 Submission of a Protest

Every protest shall be in writing and signed by the competitor making the protest. It must be accompanied by the stipulated protest fee. Unless otherwise decided by the Steward(s) of the Event for special reasons, the protest fee shall normally be forfeit if the protest is not upheld.

- a) If the reply to an inquiry is unsatisfactory to a competitor or if the inquiry is marked "void", the competitor may submit a protest concerning the same matter as the inquiry within 30 minutes after his/her time in at the finish of the rally or within 30 minutes after the time the reply was posted or the inquiry marked "void", whichever is later.
- b) If the scores are not posted at the finish, a competitor who believes that an error has been made in the calculation of a score may submit a protest concerning the error by mail. A full statement of the protest shall be sent by mail to ARA with a copy to the organizer so that it will be received by ARA in time for the protest meeting as listed in the provisional results. The appropriate fee will be collected following the submission by ARA before the protest meeting.
- c) If the Steward's decision on a protest considered at the finish of the rally is deferred, a competitor who believes that an error has been made in the revision of a score as a result of the deferred decision may enter a protest concerning the error by mail as described in section (b) above.
- d) If the decision of an Appeal Board modifies scores, a competitor who believes that an error has been made in the revision of a score as a result of that decision, may enter a protest concerning the error by mail as described in section (b) above.

9.3 Adjudication of Protests

Any protest arising out of an event shall be adjudicated by the Steward(s) subject to the rights of appeal provided in these GCRs.

9.4 Hearing of Protests

The hearing of a protest shall take place as soon as practical after lodging of the protest. All parties concerned shall be given adequate notice by the Steward(s) of any protest. They shall be entitled to call witnesses, but shall state their case personally (in the case of a company, by an officer of that company) unless prior consent has been granted by the Steward(s) to representation by another person. If the concerned persons or their representatives fail to attend the hearing, judgement may go by default. Before giving a judgement in default of appearance, the Steward(s) must be satisfied himself that the party concerned is aware of the time, date and place of hearing or has been summoned to appear. In the case of an equality of votes in a panel of Stewards, the Senior Steward shall cast the deciding vote. If judgement cannot be given immediately after hearing of the parties, they must be advised of the time and place at which the decision will be given. Judgement of the Steward(s) shall be written and copies made available to interested parties and to ARA. The judgement shall state concisely the decision of the Steward(s) and the reasons therefore.

9.5 Protest Meetings

- a) If any protest is submitted as specified in GCR 9.2(a), a protest meeting must be held at the finish of the rally.
- b) Upon receiving the protest, the Steward(s) shall verify that the protest has been properly submitted and then post it. Within 30 minutes of the posting of the protest, a notice detailing the time and location of the protest meeting shall be posted.
- c) The protest meeting shall not be held sooner than 24 hours after the notice of protest meeting is posted, except by agreement of all parties.
- d) During the protest meeting, all persons wishing to present evidence shall be allowed to do so.
- e) Following the protest meeting, the Steward(s) shall prepare a reply and post it.
 - 1) If the Steward(s) has reached a decision, the reply shall contain the decision and shall state specifically what changes are to be made to the scores as a result of the decision. The organizer shall obtain a copy of the decision and give it to the scorers;
 - 2) If the Steward(s) wishes to obtain further evidence (e.g., on the route), the reply shall state that the decision has been deferred.
- f) Any decision deferred as above must be presented or sent by first class mail or electronic means to the organizer within 48 hours after the finish of the rally for inclusion in the provisional results and shall state specifically what changes are to be made to the scores as a result of the decision.
- g) If the scores were not posted according to the Rally Regulations or if a protest decision was deferred or if the decision of an Appeal Board has modified the scores, the date of a protest meeting to hear protests submitted by mail shall be included in the provisional results. The meeting shall be held at least 15 days after the mailing of the provisional results and shall be closed (i.e. only the stewards shall attend).

- h) At the protest meeting, the Steward(s) shall first verify that each protest received was properly submitted with the fee and then rule on it. The decision of the Steward(s) shall be sent by mail or presented to the organizer within 24 hours after the meeting and shall state specifically what changes are to be made to the scores as a result of the decisions. The organizer shall then issue another set of provisional results.

9.6 Distribution of Prizes

- a) The distribution of prizes shall not commence until the results are final or unless the award winners will not be affected by any pending protests or appeals.
- b) Where a protest is lodged, the distribution of a prize must, if the entitlement to the prize may be affected by the decision of the stewards, be withheld until the protest has been adjudicated and either the results of any possible appeal arising out of such adjudication are known or the time limit for notice of appeal has expired without notice of appeal having been given. The list of awards insofar as it relates to such a prize must be declared to be provisional.
- c) If after the distribution of prizes a decision is made pursuant to these GCRs which affects the results of a competition, any competitor to whom a prize has been awarded but who is adjudged to be ineligible therefore shall return such prize to the Promoters or Organizers on demand.

9.7 Re-run

Neither the Steward(s) nor ARA shall have the power to order a competition to be re-run.

9.8 Judgement

All parties concerned shall be bound by the decision given subject only to appeal as provided in these GCRs.

9.9 Ill-founded and Vexatious Protests

- a) If a protest is adjudged not to be well-founded, the protest fee will be forfeited.
- b) If it is proved to the satisfaction of the Steward(s) that the author of the protest has acted in bad faith, he/she may be further penalized.

9.10 Steward(s)

- a) The term Steward(s) used in connection with Protests shall mean a suitably qualified person who has been named to such position by ARA.
- b) It is not interpreted by these GCRs that the Steward(s) must be present for the whole of the event, but he/she must be present at the time and place (or places) designated for the hearing of protests. Steward(s) who sits in judgement of protests must not have acted in any official capacity at the event, where executive power (other than as a Steward) was a part of his/her office.
- c) The number of Stewards that shall judge a protest is as follows:
 - 1) Three Stewards for a National or International event.

- 2) One or three Stewards for a Regional or local event.

The above requirements are notwithstanding that a greater or lesser number of Stewards may have been present for all or part of an event.

9.11 Protest Fees

- a) The protest fee shall be:
 - 1) International rallies \$1000.
 - 2) National rallies \$250.
 - 3) Regional and local rallies \$100.
- b) The protest fee must be held by the Steward(s) until the time limit for appeal has expired.
- c) Costs may be assessed by the Steward(s) against the protestor, the protestee and/or the organizer.

10. APPEALS

10.1 Right of Appeal

- a) Any person (or body) shall have a right of appeal against a sentence or other decision pronounced on them by the Steward(s). They must however, under pain of forfeiture of their right to appeal, notify the Steward(s) in writing within 30 minutes of the announcement of their decision to appeal. (For the time limits within which appeals must be made and the method by which to appeal see GCRs 10.3 and 10.5)
- b) An appeal from a decision of the Steward(s) shall be heard and judgement shall be given thereon by an Appeal Board.

10.2 Jurisdiction of the Appeal Board

- a) No members of an Appeal Board may sit on a hearing who may have taken part as competitors, officials, Organizers, promoters, or sponsors in the competition concerning which a decision is to be given, or may have already participated in a decision on the affair in question or who may have been directly or indirectly concerned in the matter under consideration.
- b) Except as provided for in the International Sporting Code, an Appeal Board shall constitute a final court of appeal empowered to settle finally any dispute arising out of or in connection with the control of an ARA sanctioned event.

10.3 Time Limits for Notices of Appeal

- a) Where an appeal arises from a decision of the Steward(s), notice of intention to appeal must be given, in writing, to the Steward(s) along with the appropriate deposit payable to ARA within thirty minutes of the announcement of their decision. The appeal proper must be lodged within 48 hours of the posting of.
- b) When an appeal is made to ARA from any other judicial proceeding, the appeal proper must be lodged within 48 hours of the posting of.
- c) Such appeals may be lodged by electronic means, directly to the Competition Director and Senior Steward of the event.

10.4 Effect of Giving Notice of Appeal

Notice of appeal shall not affect the validity or operation of any decision, penalty or sentence appealed against. However, the Steward(s) of the Event, if notified of intention to appeal his/her decision, may at his/her discretion permit the competitor to continue in a competition if the matter arises during the course of an event and his/her decision on this point is not appealable. In any event the Steward(s) shall order awards which may be affected by the outcome of the appeal to be withheld pending the decision of the court of appeal.

10.5 Form of Appeal

- a) All appeals shall be in writing, specifying briefly the decision appealed against and the grounds of appeal, and shall be signed by the applicant or his/her authorized representative. The appeal shall state the address to which communications may be

sent and shall be accompanied by the appropriate deposit except where the appeal fee has to be paid to the Steward(s) in accordance with GCR 10.3(a) above.

- b) Appeals arising out of National or International events shall be sent to the ARA National Office

10.6 Hearing of Appeal

The Appeal Board will be selected by the President of ARA or their designee. Appeal Boards shall be made up of three persons with one of them serving as the chair. All three shall have the right of vote.

All parties concerned shall be given adequate notice of the hearing of any appeal and they shall be entitled to call witnesses. The hearing may proceed to judgement in default of appearance by any party or witness.

The parties concerned shall state their cases personally (in the case of a company, by an officer of that company) unless consent has been given to representation by advocates. The hearing of an appeal must take place within thirty days of the notice of intent to appeal (or appeal itself, if no intent to appeal exists) unless postponed by the Board because of unusual circumstance.

The appeal may be held via a conference call or in person dependent upon the distances involved by the parties or for other reasons. The decision as to the method to be used rests with the ARA President. Such decision shall be final and not subject to protest or appeal. No reason need be given for such decision.

10.7 Judgement of Appeal

The Appeal Board may decide that the penalty or other decision appealed against may be waived, mitigated, increased or a fresh penalty imposed, but they shall not order any competition to be re-run.

Judgements shall be written and made available to all the interested parties and ARA. A concise statement as to the decision and the reasons therefore must be stated.

10.8 Order as to Appeal Fees and Costs

When giving judgement on appeal, the Appeal Board shall make such order as to the return or forfeiture of deposits and as to costs as they may think fit.

10.9 Publication of Judgement

ARA shall have the right to publish or cause to be published a judgement on appeal and to state the names of all the parties interested. The persons or bodies referred to in such a notice shall have no right of action against ARA or against any person printing or publishing the said notice.

10.10 Appeal Fees

- a) The appeal fee shall be:
 - 1) International rallies \$2000.
 - 2) National rallies \$500.
 - 3) Regional and local rallies \$200.

- b) The appeal fee must be sent to ARA to be held until after the results of the appeal.
- c) Costs may be assessed by the Appeal Board.