



Bulletin 2026-7

RCR Rule Changes for 2026

1/22/2026

The following changes to the ARA Rally Competition Rules are effective immediately and in place in the published 2026 Rally Completion Rulebook.

3.1.b Route Book

The start of each stage or Arrival Time Control (ATC) must always be at the beginning of a new page.

Rationale: Some route book building software begins with the ATC rather than the start. This changes gives the organizers more flexibility in building their route books.

4.1.3 Control Opening and Closing

Controls will open at least 30 45 minutes before the due time of arrival of the first competition vehicle ~~and close no sooner than 15 minutes after the maximum permitted lateness time of the last competition vehicle in order to allow for dead time and time outs.~~ A control may be authorized to close by the Clerk of the Course or when at an earlier time by a person in the control closing car if all competition vehicles still competing have checked i all expected cars have passed through the control.

Rational: Controls must be staffed and ready before 00 begins stage. CoC may direct closure of a stage due to long gaps for safety reasons and immediately send Safety Sweep on stage. Cars behind the gap may be assigned a nominal time and rejoin at a subsequent control without penalty.

4.1.8 Organizer Instructions

Crews are obliged to allow the event organizers or personnel to move their competition car for subsequent competition of the stage or transit road. Failure to do so will result in a penalty at the discretion of the Steward(s) under RCR 6.4.

Rationale: The event organizers must not be hindered in their efforts to keep the event on schedule.

6.3.2 Non-Competitive Entry

A crew may request to rejoin an event as a non-competitive entry within a Leg by submitting a rejoin request to the Clerk of the Course. The Clerk of the Course or designee will determine if the request will be granted. The crew will not be scored while a non-competitive entry and the competition vehicle must comply with the ARA Technical Rules to be considered for rejoining. Any penalties incurred as an NCE will be added to the team's score. A non-competitive entry may rejoin competition under 6.3 at the next available opportunity. The Clerk of the Course may revoke an NCE status at any time.

Rationale: The current rule does not apply a meaningful penalty for NCE teams and does not hinder them from affecting ongoing operations.

6.4 Improper Procedure Infractions

Improper Procedure Infractions must be reported in writing to the Clerk of the Course by marshals, judges of fact, or competitors. Upon confirmation of the infraction or when an infraction is recorded by a judge of fact; it will be referred to the Steward(s) for investigation. Steward(s) may impose any penalty specified in GCR section 7. Such penalties may be subject to protest.

Rationale: There was concern during 2025 that these decisions were not protestable and must be appealed.

6.4.8 Failure to follow marshal instructions 4.1.7

Rational: This allows enforcement of 4.1.7

6.4.9 Failure to follow organizer instructions 4.1.8

Rationale: This allows enforcement of 4.1.8

6.4.10 Competition vehicle deemed not roadworthy.

Any car deemed to be in violation of RTR 2.2.1 will not be allowed to compete until the issue is resolved to the satisfaction of the Chief Scrutineer.

Rationale: The crew is responsible for the roadworthiness of the competition car at all times and if the car is deemed not roadworthy, then they must not be allowed to continue and the stewards will ultimately determine the appropriate penalty.



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