

## Checkpoint Chat — November 2016 — Rich Bireta, RRB Chairman

### 2017 Rule Changes

The annual rule change process for the SCCA Road Rally program starts in the first half of the calendar year. All proposed rules changes are surfaced to the Road Rally Board by June 30. The RRB then takes an initial pass at the proposed changes and those proposals which have to the potential to be approved by the RRB are released for public comment. The comment period for comments from the road rally community closed October 8 and the RRB took their final action at the October 10 meeting. Rules changes that passed at this meeting are forwarded to the SCCA Board of Directors for their review and approval at their early December meeting. The Road Rally Rulebook is then updated and made available for the 2017 competition season begin in January.

This year the RRB made a concerted effort to execute a rules change process that was objective, methodical, thoughtful, inclusive and transparent. Toward that end we actively solicited comments from many members of the broader road rally community and formally tabulated those results and comments.

This year 22 people from the rally community shared their opinions with us on these proposals. This was very helpful to the RRB in deciding on each item. I have included information on how the rally community voted on each proposal. Not everyone offered an opinion on every proposal, so you'll note that many of the votes do not total 22.

At the October 10 RRB meeting the RRB voted to pass 5 of the 14 proposals as originally stated. Two proposals were passed with a slight modification. One proposal was tabled for further investigation. The remaining 6 proposals were rejected.

#### **These five proposals were passed as originally stated:**

**#1 – Remove the requirement in the Road Rally Rules (RRRs) that cars must display an SCCA RoadRally sticker during the event.** Community vote: 15 in favor, 3 opposed. This does not mean that regions can't use these stickers. It only means that it is optional. As an aside, there has been a misconception that these stickers are no longer available. In fact, there are over 1,000 stickers in stock in Topeka. They are item #2610 and they sell for \$2.00 each. The stickers may be ordered at [scca.com](http://scca.com)->About SCCA->Downloads->2016 Merchandise Form for Members.

**# 7 – Give year end awards to the top 10 finishing positions rather than the top 10% and remove contestants that are not eligible for a year end award before assigning finishing positions.** Community vote: 8 in favor, 6 opposed. There was a misconception that this proposal was adding a requirement that a contestant must run at least one National rally in order to qualify

for a year end award. This is already a requirement as stated in Article 8 B 4 of the RRRs and that requirement was not up for discussion and has not changed. This proposal was merely changing the awards from 10% to 10 positions and specifying the procedure to count only contestants eligible for a year end award when assigning year end finishing positions. Clearly our description of this proposed change should have been more clearly stated.

**# 8 – Remove the 70 point rule limiting the number of points that can be earned by running Divisionals.** Community vote: 10 in favor, 4 opposed. As mentioned above, there is still the requirement that 2 of the equivalents must come from a National rally in order to be eligible for a year end award and deleting the 70 point rule does not change that requirement.

**# 9 – Remove the 3X point premium for USRRC events.** Community vote: 15 in favor, 2 opposed. This means that USRRC events will count as normal rallies. That is, a win on a National is 20 points and a win on a Divisional is 10 points. Recent USRRC events have changed from the original format of three National Events to a collection of destination events and this change is consistent with the event difficulty.

**# 11 – Increase the worker points for National rallies to 20 points.** Worker points for Divisionals remain at 10 points. Community vote: 14 in favor, 4 opposed.

**These two proposals were passed but with a modification:**

**#2 – Change the deadline for submitting a sanction request for a Divisional rally from 30 days to 60 days. This was modified to a 45 day deadline and passed.** Community vote: 9 in favor, 10 opposed. Most divisional sanction requests are already submitted at least 2 months in advance. It was felt that increasing the deadline from 30 days to 45 days would not be an undue imposition on organizers. Since a rally is not listed on the SCCA website's event calendar until it is sanctioned, it is in the best interest of contestants to provide as much advance notice of an event as possible.

**# 3 – Divisional rallies must submit their General Instructions with their sanction request. This was modified to apply to only Divisional COURSE rallies and passed.** Community vote: 6 in favor, 12 opposed. The RRB felt that there was no need for Divisional Tour rallies to submit General Instructions, but that there was value in having the NEC review the General Instructions for Divisional Course rallies in the same way that they review General Instructions for National events.

**This proposal was tabled for further discussion:**

**# 4 – Eliminate the Safety Steward licensing program.** Community vote: 9 in favor, 11 opposed. Opinions in the community were decidedly mixed with strong positions stated for and against this proposal. I believe the current program is dated and the training material and processes need to be updated in order to meet the objective of having a safety-related review of each event without becoming an excessive burden on Regions starting a new rally program. The Rally Board plans to review and revise these processes in the near term future.

**These 6 proposals were rejected by the RRB:**

**# 5 – Require Divisional rallies to adhere to Articles 22 through 27 of the RRRs.** Community vote: 6 in favor, 10 opposed. While it was agreed that many Divisional rallies already adhere to these articles and that it is desirable to do so, the RRB felt that individual event organizers should have the flexibility to decide this for themselves, rather than be mandated to do so.

**# 6 – Prohibit cable syncing your clock to the rallymaster's clock.** Community vote: 2 in favor, 16 opposed. While there is still a concern about fairness since not everyone would have the ability to do this, the vote of 16 opposed to only 2 in favor was a clear signal from the rally community.

**# 10 – Increase the allowable equivalents from 14 to 16.** Community vote: 11 in favor, 6 opposed. It was reported to the RRB that a similar idea had been tried in several other SCCA programs and found to be detrimental to attendance. The motivation behind the proposal was to increase attendance so the new information that actual experience had found that it may likely be detrimental was a deciding factor in rejecting this proposal.

**#12 – Reduce worker points for Divisional rallies to 5.** Community vote: 0 in favor, 18 opposed.

**# 13 – Contestants must compete in at least 2 National rallies to be eligible for a year end award.** Community vote: 5 in favor, 13 opposed.

**#14 – Contestants must be an annual member of SCCA before earning championship points.** Community vote: 5 in favor, 12 opposed. The process will remain as it is currently, that is, if a person joins SCCA by November 1<sup>st</sup>, any points that they have earned on rallies earlier in that year will be counted toward year end awards.

These recommendations will now go the SCCA Board of Directors for their final decision, so I caution everyone against assuming that these are a done deal. They are not final until the Board

of Directions acts on each proposal in December. I anticipate approval of the RRB recommendations by the full BOD.

I would again like to thank the people who sent an email to share their opinions with us on these matters. Your opinions allowed the Rally Board to quickly discuss and approve or dismiss those proposals where there was a strong indication of support or disapproval and allowed us to spend the majority of our time discussing those proposals and to determine whether the effect of the change would best meet our goals for the rally program.

As always I look forward to your comments on this or any other item of interest or concern regarding the SCCA road rally program.

**Rich Bireta**

SCCA RRB Chairman