



Bulletin 2023-7

Rally Competition Rule Changes for 2023

1/15/2023

The following changes to the ARA Rally Competition Rules are effective immediately and in place in the 2023 RCR book.

Updates to Safety Warning Devices to include Emergency Consoles (Such as RallySafe) and SOS Procedures

5.14.1 When Used

In cases where a vehicle is stopped:

- c) Competitors arriving at a location where a triangle is displayed and/or a stopped car warning is displayed on the emergency console (if applicable) shall SLOW to a reasonable speed and maintain that speed until they have passed the stopped vehicle. No scoring relief will be given.

Competitors are reminded that one triangle could indicate a complete route blockage.

5.14.2 Display of SOS

In the event of an emergency, crews are expected to display the SOS symbol (inside back cover of the route book) and following crews are required to stop and render aid. An emergency includes, but is not limited to, injuries requiring immediate medical attention, uncontrolled fire, breach of stage security, or total and complete road blockage. ~~One crew will proceed past the incident to the next Radio Point in order to report the incident to the event organizer.~~

The SOS switch on the emergency console must be activated as soon as possible (if applicable)

5.14.3 No Triangle and SOS/OK Displayed

If both a triangle and a SOS/OK sign are not is displayed, competitors arriving at a location where another competing vehicle has stopped, must stop until the safety of the occupants of the stopped vehicle has been ascertained and the set-up of the stopped vehicle's triangle has started. Vehicles stopping to comply with this rule may apply for scoring relief under RCR 5.14.5.

5.14.4 Display of OK

If a crew is stopped in a stage but do not meet the conditions of an SOS need medical attention, they must display the “OK” sign found on the reverse of the SOS, to following competing vehicles. The display must be visible to allow sufficient time to safely slow down or avoid the stopped car.

The OK switch on the emergency console must be activated as soon as possible (if applicable).

5.14.9 SOS Procedures

In the event of an emergency or SOS display, the following procedures must be followed.

The first car at the scene of an SOS or emergency must stop and render aid to the best of their ability. They may also assist with displaying the SOS to following vehicles and setting up triangles.

The second car that arrives must collect pertinent information regarding the incident and proceed to the next radio point in the direction of stage traffic. The next radio point may be a Marshal or spectator point or timing control. Relay the relevant information to the radio operator and stay at that location until released by the radio operator.

All other cars that arrive to the scene of an incident must stay at the location, unless there is imminent danger. Ensure the roadway is kept clear for emergency vehicles to respond to the incident. Competitors may leave only after being released or escorted by an event official.

If the SOS is displayed and one or more competitors stop, it must not be rescinded and the SOS procedures must be followed.

5.14.10 Conflict between Display and Emergency Console

If the OK/SOS sign displayed and the emergency console conflict with each other, approaching competitors must take the actions for the more severe level.

Rationale: With tracking systems (such as RallySafe) being used, they should be included in the regulations to give extra clarity to competitors on their usage. Also, safety procedures needed to be clarified within the rules.

Adding Virtual Chicanes to Regulations

1.3.2 Chicanes

b) Chicane Type

Chicanes may be of ~~three~~ two types

- 3) Virtual chicanes with a target minimum speed of 25 MPH. The competitors must reach the target minimum speed, confirmed by an installed console, within the virtual chicane zone.

6.2 Penalties

Virtual Chicane Penalties:

Lowest speed attained 1-9 MPH above the target speed – 10 seconds

Lowest speed attained 10 MPH or more above the target speed – 1 minute.

Rationale: With virtual chicanes being used more frequently, it is necessary to add to the regulations.

Define Quiet Zone within the regulations

4.7.1 Location These controls will NOT be identified in the route book and may be located:

- a) Within or at the end of quiet zones for the purpose of verifying that vehicles comply with the ~~following~~ quiet zone regulations in RCR 4.11:

- ~~1) posted speed limits must be observed.~~
- ~~2) Auxiliary headlights may not be used.~~
- ~~3) Excessive noise is not permitted~~

4.11 Quiet Zones

Quiet zones are portions of the rally route where competitors must proceed under the following conditions:

- 1) The maximum speed specified in the route book, speed limit, or emergency/tracking console, must be followed. The lowest speed between those must be respected.
- 2) Auxiliary headlights may not be used
- 3) Excessive noise, such as anti-lag, is not permitted.

Rationale: Previous regulations were poorly placed in the rule book.

Starting Order Draw changes in case of tie

9.1.3 Starting Order Draw

The procedure for determining the starting order will be as follows:

- a) At the Seeded Draw scheduled time and location each entered driver from the Seeded Draw group shall draw a number; the order of the draw will be by the drivers' speed factor. If multiple drivers have the same speed factor, a coin flip will determine their draw order.
1. The number drawn will be for the order of selection of the driver's starting position;
 2. The driver who has drawn first choice shall be the first to select a starting position from those included in the draw. The driver who has drawn second choice shall select a starting position from the remaining available positions, and so on.

9.2 Re-Seed Order

After the initial start, the re-seed order shall be determined at each point where a reseed is done based on each entry's provisional overall standing, based on stage times only. In the event of a tie, the re-seed order for those tied will be based on their original start order position; first to last.

The Clerk of the Course, after approval by the Steward(s), may place competitors in a different restart order than their scores would normally have entitled them. Such decisions are not grounds for inquiry

Rationale: Give coverage within the rules for instances of ties.

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ARA Competition Director