

# RALLYCROSS BOARD

## RALLYCROSS BOARD MINUTES | November 3, 2015

The RallyCross Board (RXB) met via conference call on November 3. Attending were Stephen Hyatt, Chairman, Brent Blakely, Karl Sealander, Ron Foley, Keith Lightfoot and Chris Regan. Also in attendance were Tere Pulliam and Lee Hill, BOD liaisons, and Howard Duncan and Brian Harmer from the National office.

The Secretary acknowledges that these minutes may not be in chronological order.

### Committee Reports

- RallyCross Safety Committee (Chris Regan): The RXB discussed an incident in which a car struck an object that was too close to the course. There were no injuries. The Safety Committee will monitor the Region to ensure safety improvements have been implemented. Regan will issue a reminder to the RallyCross Safety Stewards to be vigilant in maintaining safe courses and events.
- Rules Committee (Keith Lightfoot): The proposed 2016 RallyCross Rules changes, as published in the previous Fastrack, erroneously referred to RallySprint I and RallySprint II. It should have referred to them as RallyTrials and RallySprint.

As the result of the decision by the RallyCross Court of Appeals, dated October 30, 2015, regarding DOT tires in the Stock categories and a member's questions regarding convertible hardtops, the RXB has released the following errors and omissions rules clarifications:

### 2016 RALLYCROSS RULES: ERRORS & OMISSIONS RULE CLARIFICATIONS

#### 3.3 VEHICLE CLASSIFICATION

##### C. Stock Category Preparation allowances:

2. Tires must be U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) approved and display the applicable DOT symbol and Tire Identification Number label. Tires marked "For competition only", "Not for street use" or similar are not allowed. No part of the tire may be modified or altered from its original form, either through addition or subtraction, other than normal wear. No studded tires are permitted at National events unless ice or snow is present; Regional and Divisional events may allow studded tires any time. Studded tires may not be homemade using bolts or screws. Only street-legal studs are allowed. Alternate tire sizes are allowed but tires may not interfere with any parts of the car (fenders, fender liners, suspension, etc). Inner tubes are considered an integral part of the tire.

##### E. Modified Category Preparation Allowances

3. All non-essential components may be removed, replaced or relocated for the purpose of weight reduction or balance with the following requirements:
  - e. Side and rear windows may be removed or replaced with Lexan or equivalent; however, a convertible hardtop must retain the OEM rear window ~~removal of the rear window from a convertible hardtop is prohibited~~. Windshield may be replaced with Lexan or equivalent with addition of a full roll cage built to SCCA Improved Touring specifications or better.

Another change that will be made to the rules approved at the last meeting is the helmet allowances. The RXB has decided to follow Solo and extend the expiration date of "2000" rated helmets until December 31, 2016.

Lightfoot reported that the Rules Committee is fully staffed and that there would be no expected changes to its composition through 2016.

- RallySprint Committee (Blakely): The RXB approved a set of rules for RallyTrials and RallySprint. Once approved by the Board of Directors, these rules will go into effect January 1, 2016. Please watch Fastrack, the SCCA website and the Facebook page for more information as it becomes available.

**Motion:** Accept the RallySprint Rules as presented. Lightfoot/Regan. PASSED unanimous.

Composition of the RallySprint Committee for 2016 will consist of Scott Beliveau, Chairman, Kito Brielmaier and one additional member yet to be determined.

- National Championship Committee (Stephen Hyatt): Brian Harmer has been in contact with the National Championship site representatives and is hoping for a date confirmation soon. Plans for more community involvement for the 2016 event may include a cruise-in or parc expose. Harmer also reported that following the 2015 National Championship a trophy of

appreciation was sent to the Balloon Festival representatives, along with thank-you letters to the Balloon Festival board members.

Two new members are needed for the Committee. These positions need to be filled as soon as possible so that the Committee can begin work and finalize the 2016 Supplemental Regulations prior to the first National Challenge event.

- Divisional RallyCross Stewards Liaison (Ron Foley): Foley reported on the Divisional RallyCross Stewards' meeting on October 22. Four stewards were in attendance. Discussions centered around rally tire allowances, RallySprint rules and National Challenges events. Those Divisions not involved with National Challenge events in 2016 were encouraged to host Divisional championships or other large events instead.

#### **Old Business**

- 2016 National Challenge plans and scheduling: Scheduling of 2016 National Challenge events will be planned around Solo Match Tour dates in an effort to keep within budgets. The National office will make contact with previous National Challenge organizers to coordinate sites and dates. The current plans are to finalize the schedule at the December RXB meeting.
- Year-end RallyCross awards: The RXB discussed and voted on the recipients of its annual awards to be presented at the 2016 National Convention. Those awards are the Regional RallyCross Achievement, Divisional RallyCross Achievement, Sparkplug Award and Dirty Cup. Recipients were chosen from several nominations.
- New RXB members: The RXB discussed and approved the recommendation to the BOD of two individuals for positions on the RXB.

**Motion:** Recommend the members of the 2016 RXB, including two new members. The members' names will be released after the SCCA BOD approves the list. Lightfoot/Foley. PASSED unanimous.

- 2016 National Convention: The RXB will conduct a full day of meetings on Wednesday prior to the Convention. Hyatt reminded RXB members to make travel plans accordingly. Planning is underway for the RallyCross sessions and presentations.

Next meeting: December 1, 2015

Submitted by Karl Sealander, RXB Secretary

# RALLYCROSS COURT OF APPEALS

## DECISION OF THE SCCA RALLYCROSS COURT OF APPEALS

October 30, 2015

### OVERVIEW

During the 2015 SCCA RallyCross National Championship event in Iowa the weekend of August 7-9, Car #331 in Stock Front Wheel Drive (SF) was the subject of an inquiry and formal protest. An inquiry was submitted alleging that Car #331 was equipped with "illegal rally tires". The Chief Steward inspected the tires and issued a decision stating that the tires had DOT labels and were not marked "for competition use only" and were therefor approved for use in SF.

After the inquiry decision was posted, five competitors submitted a formal protest alleging that the tires on Car #331 were not "DOT approved" because the tires did not conform with the federal tire labeling requirements of 49 CFR 574. The Protest Committee conducted a review and provided the driver of Car #331 with the opportunity to submit documentation from the tire manufacturer confirming that the tires were DOT approved. The driver was not able to provide verification from the manufacturer. The committee found that the tires in question did not meet the federal labeling requirements (DOT stamp followed by Tire Identification Number (TIN)) and were therefor not legal for use in Stock categories. Car #331 was disqualified and moved to last place in the final SF standings.

Following the decision of the Protest Committee, the driver of Car #331 submitted an appeal to the Court of Appeals. There are currently three members serving on the Court of Appeals. Two of these members participated in the 2015 R-X National Championship event and were thereby not eligible to hear this appeal. Two new members were appointed as replacements for this appeal. The COA met via conference call and follow-up emails to review this appeal. The COA reviewed the appeal information submitted by the appellant, the background information submitted by the Chief of Protest, the applicable federal regulations on DOT tire labeling requirements, and the websites for the tire manufacturer (MaxSport) and one of the tires' distributors (Demon Tweeks). In addition, the COA contacted MaxSport and Demon Tweeks to request confirmation as to whether the tires in question were U.S. DOT approved.

### QUESTION TO BE DECIDED

The question before the COA is whether the tires on Car #331 were "DOT approved" per Article 6.2.C.2 of the SCCA RallyCross rules. As noted in the appeal document, the driver of Car #331 takes the position that the tires are "DOT approved" because the tires are not sold in the United States and therefor the "DOT" stamp alone, without the TIN, is sufficient to prove DOT certification.

### FINDINGS

In reviewing this appeal, the COA reached the following findings:

1. "DOT approved" means the tires must meet applicable federal (U.S.) regulatory requirements, including the requirement that the label include the DOT stamp and the tire identification number in the prescribed format per 49 CFR 574. Although the tires have "DOT" stamped on their sidewalls and, in another location on the tire, what appears to be a European TIN, and in yet another location, what appears to be a date of manufacture, the labeling does not conform with the U.S. DOT labeling format.
2. Per the manufacturer's website, the tires are remanufactured/remolded tires. 49 CFR 574 requires that remanufactured tires are labeled with an "R" in the DOT stamp ("DOT-R"). The tires in question do not have the "R" label and therefor appear to not be properly labeled.
3. The tires are not sold in the United States, which may reasonably be interpreted to support the claim that the tires are not U.S. DOT approved.
4. While the manufacturer did not respond to the COA's inquiry regarding whether the tires are DOT certified, the distributor did respond and confirmed that "no MaxSport tire has DOT approval."

### DECISION

Based on the findings above, the COA affirms the decision of the Protest Committee that the tires were not DOT approved and were not legal for use in Stock classes. Since the manufacturer's website states that "All our tyres are "E" marked and road legal" and the tires had "DOT" stamped on the sidewall, a reasonable person, without further inquiry, might interpret this information to mean the tires were DOT approved. As a result of this ambiguity, the COA authorizes the return of 50% of the appeal fee to the appellant.

For the Court of Appeals: Paul Eklund, Nathan Usher, Eric Genack

# ROAD RALLY BOARD

## ROAD RALLY BOARD MINUTES | November 16, 2015

The RoadRally Board met via conference call on November 16, 2015; meeting called to order at 7:36 CDT by Chairman Rich Bireta. In attendance: Rich Bireta, Jeanne English, Clarence Westberg, Chuck Hanson, John Emmons, Len Picton, BOD liaisons Terry Hanushek and Lee Hill, NEC Chairman Mike Thompson; not present: Deena Rowland from the national office.

October minutes were approved. Chuck/Rich/pass.

### Front Burner Items:

1. RReNewsletter – Last issue published November 6. Another fine job on the newsletter. Kudos to Cheryl Babbe for her continued efforts. Road rally organizing committees should be encouraged to distribute it at the start of their events, and solicit subscriptions. RRB members are encouraged to contribute (Guest Checkpoint Chat Column, Save the Date, My First Rally, Rally Apps, Event Recaps, ...).
2. Road Rally Planning Calendar. (Jeanne)
  - a. Latest version (October 31, 2015). Next one end of the month
3. USRRC Report (Jeanne) people seemed to enjoy the rallies, said they had fun; what about the 'Lite' concept? Jeanne thinks it is easier for committees; Mike said that he liked the 'laid back aspect' of the weekend; Clarence commented that this is what the original USRRC concept was – to have fun in a laid back atmosphere. There were 11 cars on the Friday rally (RT), 13 on Saturday (NC), and 8 on Sunday (NGTA).
4. 2016 Rules Changes Package
  - a. See attachments to agenda email – Terry formatted rules changes for BOD presentation, includes Appendix A which describes rally requirements by type; Mike said that the GTA divisionals should be 3 hours, not 4, and that he did some reordering to the table. Terry said that in formatting to the RRRs, he took some things out of Article 4 and put them in Appendix A, and renamed the current Appendices A and B to B and C.

Motion: Amend GTA divisional length to 3 hours. Jeanne/Chuck/pass (6-0)  
Motion: Approve the changes, including reformatted Appendix A, and that they be sent to the BOD for their approval at their December meeting. Rich/Len/pass (5-1)

  - b. There was discussion about the sunseting of the GTA championship; this was a policy decision, a statement of intent, not a rule; should not the same standards be applied to the tour and course championships? Terry said that the BOD looks for fairness in programs, and would like to see equalness between the types of rallies. Rich – defer this to next month.
5. NEC Report (Mike) - the NEC feels that the proposed SP class is too complicated and will not be implemented at this time; they proposed that it be replaced with an SOP class; Clarence felt that with GPS, apps, and car on-board computers becoming more standard that they fit better with class S, not SOP; Len also said that SOP should be for regional rallies first to see how the class works; we will come back to this for future discussion. The NEC also felt that the 'no synching' of competitor's clocks rule should not be implemented for 2016, but the RRB disagreed primarily because not all clocks can be synched; WWV is the standard for setting clocks; no action is taken, i.e. the 'no synching' of competitor's clocks rule stands as is.
6. USRRC Events
  - a. 2018 STL - Positive response sent to Jim Heine. Target date for formal approval is June 2016.
7. New Business  
RRB face to face meeting – after some discussion of various options, the RRB would like to meet on Sunday, Jan 24, in Las Vegas as part of the SCCA convention; Terry will get more info about the convention and send it to the RRB.
8. It's time to vote for the Gervais Award and the Best Tour Rally Award; Chuck will compile a list of eligible voters and send the list to Deena for processing.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 PM CDT

Next meeting December 14, 2015, via conference call

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne English, RRB Secretary