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Date: **Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026** Time: **23.55 hrs**  
Subject: **STEWARDS DECISION No 4** Document No: **2.7**

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From: *The Stewards*  
To: *Competitor No. 2 Name: THE RACING FACTORY - MOTORSPORT SOLUTIONS*  
*Crew: Teemu SUNINEN / Antti HAAPALA*

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*Number of pages: 3*

*Attachments: -*

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### **PROTEST lodged by**

The Competitor of car No. **2 THE RACING FACTORY - MOTORSPORT SOLUTIONS** (Crew **Teemu SUNINEN / Antti HAAPALA**)

### **Against**

The Notification of the Clerk of the Course No. 2.

### **Procedure:**

1. On Sunday, April 19th, 2026, the Clerk of the Course received at 21.41 hrs a protest lodged by the Competitor of car No. 2 addressed to the Stewards.
2. Competitor Car No. 2 protested a Notification No. 2
3. Protester (was represented by Team Manager (Mr Aloisio MONTEIRO), was summoned and heard.
4. The FIA Sporting Delegate, Mr Miikka Anttila, the Clerk of the Course, Mr Juan Manuel Gómez, and the CRO, Ms Silvia Costilla, were invited to attend the hearing.

The hearing was held on Sunday, April 17th, 2026, at 22:35 in the Stewards' Room, with all the Stewards present.

5. No objections were raised against the composition of the Stewards panel.
6. At the hearing, the protester referred to the documents previously submitted. None of the parties submitted further evidence, nor initiated the hearing of additional persons, nor asked to conduct further investigations.

### **On the Admissibility:**

7. The Stewards examined the admissibility of the protest:
  - 7.1 The protest was considered to be lodged in due time, in accordance with Art. 13.3 of the FIA 2026 International Sporting Code.
  - 7.2 A single competitor protested.
  - 7.3 The subject of the protest was against the Notification No. 2 of the Clerk of the Course (this essentially corresponds to the content of the protest against the provisional

classification, as the applied or not applied penalties are reflected in the provisional classification based on the CoC notification).

7.4 The protest was accompanied adequately by the protest deposit of €1000, as stipulated in Art. 13.4.2 of the FIA 2026 International Sporting Code, Art. 65.2 of the FIA 2026 Regional Rallies Sporting Regulations and in Art. 15.2 of the event Supplementary Regulations (the Stewards were not provided with proof that the bank transfer made by the protester had been completed in full. However, the document submitted by the protester shows that the payment process is ongoing. The Stewards have no reason to think otherwise. If the opposite were to become apparent in the future, this would undoubtedly have consequences for the protester).

7.5 The protest is addressed not to the chair of the panel of stewards (FIA 2026 ISC Art. 13.5.1), but to the Clerk of the Course

7.6 Although the protest has been submitted in writing, it does not meet the requirement outlined in FIA 2026 ISC Art. 13.4.1 (it does not clearly state the grounds on which the protester is challenging the aforementioned Notification No. 2, nor does it cite the relevant regulations)

**Decision:**

**The protest is inadmissible.**

**Hearing on the admissibility:**

The protester was asked to explain his position on admissibility.

He explained that, in general, he did not want to lodge any protest and wanted to talk. However, in his opinion, the protest should be considered admissible. He has repeatedly stated that he is not a lawyer.

**After the hearing, the Stewards took the following decision after due deliberation.**

**Decision:**

- 1. The protest is inadmissible.**
- 2. The protest deposit is not to be returned to Competitor No. 2.**

**Reason:**

Since the protest does not meet the requirements set in the FIA 2026 ISC Art. 13.5.1 (it is addressed not to the correct person), FIA 2026 ISC Art. 13.5.1 (does not cite the relevant regulations). And its entire content raises doubts as to whether the protester truly understands the purpose of the protest. During the hearing, the protester repeatedly stated that he was not a lawyer and did not understand what a protest should look like.

The protester does not state or explain what in his opinion is wrong with the content of the contested Notification No. 2, but merely states that it is addressed to the Clerk of the Course and that the additional video evidence attached is also addressed to the Clerk of the Course, since the latter allegedly does not have it and has not seen it (CoC denied this during the hearing, stating that nothing new that he had not seen before had been provided to him along with the protest).

However, the protest does not meet the requirements set in the FIA 2026 ISC. Any explanations by the protester that he did not draft the protest himself, but was allegedly misled by the CRO, who allegedly dictated to him what to write, were refuted by the CRO (in the presence of the protester during the hearing).

When the CRO denied this during the hearing, the protester agreed with the CRO's position that she had merely helped him verify the bank account into which the protest fee was to be paid, as well as the protester's details. The CRO did not influence anything else. The protester prepared this himself. It cannot be any other way, because the protester alone is responsible for preparing and submitting a protest that meets the requirements.

Furthermore, during the hearing, the protester confirmed that he intended to address the protest and its attachments specifically to the CoC, not to the stewards.

The Stewards' decision was made based on FIA 2026 International Sporting Code Art. 11.7.1.a, Art. 11.7.3, Art. 11.7.3.a

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 15 of the FIA 2026 International Sporting Code and Chapter 5 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules.



**Arnas PALIUKENAS**  
Chair of the Panel of Stewards



**Antonio MEDEIROS**  
FIA Steward



**Francisco RIAÑO**  
ASN Steward

Received by: **THE RACING FACTORY**

Competitor:

Car No: #2

Crew: **Teemu Somppi / Andri Haapala**

**ALEJO PONTEDRO**

Date: **20/04/26** Time: **00420**

Signature:

