

## **CENTRAL EUROPEAN RALLY 2025**

16 - 19 October

 Date:
 15.10.2025
 Time:
 18:40 hrs

 Subject:
 STEWARDS DECISION No. 1
 Document No:
 2.2

From: The Stewards

**To:** The Competitor TOYOTA GAZOO RACING WRT of car No. 17

Crew SÉBASTIEN OGIER / VINCENT LANDAIS

All Competitors / crew members entered in Rally Chile BIOBÍO 2025

### The Stewards:

- having received the delegation of authority from the Stewards of Rally Chile BIOBÍO 2025 with the related delegation of authority from the Federaçion Chilena de Automovilismo Deportivo (Steward: Mr. Gonzalo Concha) to the Österreichischer Automobil- Motorrad und Touring Club (Steward: Mr. Wilhelm Singer);
- having examined the report from the FIA Media Delegate of Rally Chile BIOBÍO 2025 related to this case and having examined the video recording of the incident which was attached to this report;
- having summoned the above Co-Driver of car No. 17 as well as the Competitor's representative;
- have considered the following matter and determine the following:

#### **Facts**

The Co-Driver of Car No. 17 used inappropriate language during the post-event FIA WRC Meet the Crews live interview session at the podium of Rally Chile BIOBÍO 2025, which took place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

## Offence

Breach of Article 12.2.1. of the 2025 FIA International Sporting Code.

### **Decision**

- To impose a reprimand on Mr. VINCENT LANDAIS.
- Additionally, a fine of € 2,000 is imposed on Mr. VINCENT LANDAIS, which is applied with suspension of sentence (fully suspended) for 12 months (expiring on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2026) on condition that Mr. VINCENT LANDAIS commits no further breach of Article 12.2.1.I of the 2025 FIA International Sporting Code.

#### Reason

The Stewards reviewed the video recording provided by the FIA Media Delegate and heard from Mr. VINCENT LANDAIS, Co-driver of Car No. 17, and from the Sporting Director, Mr. KAJ LINDSTRÖM, via remote connection from the Service Park in Passau on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 16.30 hrs.

During the "Meet the Crews" session following Rally Chile Biobío 2025, Mr.LANDAIS used the phrase "straight away, I was like 'fuck', this is going to be long" while describing the crew's Friday morning performance.

Mr. LANDAIS immediately acknowledged that the language used was inappropriate in this environment, which can be inferred from his reaction in the video recording. He explained that it was a spontaneous slip of the tongue — a "stupid mistake" made in the heat of the moment, with no intention to offend or show disrespect to anyone. He issued an apology to the FIA Stewards and assured them that he would exercise greater caution in the future.

Mr. LINDSTRÖM apologised on behalf of the team and confirmed that the team fully understands the importance of maintaining professionalism and good conduct during public sessions.

The Stewards recognise that English is not Mr. LANDAIS' native language and that the expression was colloquial rather than intended to offend. The Stewards also note that such language has become increasingly common as an emotional

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expression but reaffirm that the FIA remains committed to ensuring that inappropriate language is not used in public or controlled environments such as media conferences and podium sessions.

Within this context, the 2025 FIA International Sporting Code defines the breach in this case as "... the general use of language (written or verbal), gesture and/or sign that is offensive, insulting, coarse, rude or abusive and might reasonably be expected or be perceived to be coarse or rude or to cause offense, humiliation or to be inappropriate ..." The FIA has introduced Appendix B in its International Sporting Code (updated version published on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025), which serves as Stewards Penalty Guidelines to penalise violations of certain articles of its International Sporting Code, including the breach stated above.

The Stewards note that Mr. LANDAIS could reasonably have been expected to be particularly mindful of the need to avoid such expressions, given that his driver, Mr. SÉBASTIEN OGIER, was involved in a similar matter earlier in the season at Rally Finland 2025.

Taking into account all the circumstances outlined above, and in line with the decision taken in a comparable case during Rally Estonia 2025, the Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty is a reprimand and a fine of €2,000, the application of which is suspended in full for a period of 12 months, on condition that no further breach of Article 12.2.1.I of the 2025 FIA International Sporting Code occurs within that period.

In determining the appropriate penalty for this breach, the Stewards took into consideration that:

- This is the first infringement of Article 12.2.1.l of the 2025 FIA International Sporting Code by Mr. LANDAIS.
- English is not Mr. LANDAIS' native language.
- The expression used is a colloquial term in certain cultures and was not intended to cause offense. There is no evidence that the word was directed at or intended to offend any other person.
- Mr. LANDAIS and Mr. LINDSTRÖM offered an unprompted apology to both the Stewards and the FIA.
- Mr. LANDAIS gave assurances that he would exercise greater caution in the future.

Taking these mitigating factors into account, the Stewards concluded that the above penalties are appropriate and consistent with the principles set out in Appendix B of the 2025 FIA International Sporting Code.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 15 of the 2025 FIA International Sporting Code and Chapter 4 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules.

Mathieu Remmerie The Stewards Slaven Dedić

Wilhelm Singer





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## RE: STEWARDS DECISION No 1 - CENTRAL EUROPEAN RALLY 2025

This decision was notified to the Competitor's officially nominated representative as below:

Name (in block letters):	KAJ LINDSTRÖM	Date:	15.10.2025
Position within the team:	SPORTING DIRECTOR	Time:	18:45

Published on the Organiser's Digital Notice Board on 15.10.2025 at 18:53 hrs.