
Date: 28.06.2026 **Time:** 22:25 hrs
Subject: STEWARDS DECISION No. 9 **Document No:** 2.11

From: The Stewards

To: The Competitor M-SPORT FORD WORLD RALLY TEAM of car No. 55
Crew JOSHUA MCERLEAN / EOIN TREACY

All Competitors / crew members

The Stewards, having become aware, through the live broadcast on Rally.TV, about an alleged issue regarding the co-driver of Car No. 55, who was not properly fastened on SS16, summoned the above competitor's representative as well as both crew members, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

Facts The co-driver of car No. 55 had his safety belt not properly fastened while the car was in motion on SS16.

Offence Breach of:

- Art. 53.1 of the 2026 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations
- Art. 12.2.1.h of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code
- Chapter III Art. 4 of Appendix L to the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code.

Decision To impose a **1-minute time penalty** on the Competitor of car No. 55 M-SPORT FORD WORLD RALLY TEAM, to be applied to the special stage time of SS16.

The stage time for the Competitor of car No. 55 is accordingly modified to **18:46.7**

Reason A hearing was held on Sunday 28th June 2026 at 18:25 hrs in the presence of the Team Manager, Ms Samantha Gray and the crew members of car No. 55, Mr Joshua Mcerlean and Mr Eoin Treacy.

The crew explained that on SS16 they went off in a turn and stopped outside the road. The co-driver unfastened his seat belt to get out of the car and set up the OK sign and triangle as prescribed by the regulations. Then they reversed and rejoined the road, trying to avoid any possible incident with the following car.

The co-driver also added that he had told his driver "don't go" because he was not fastened. Then, when ready, he told him to proceed.

The co-driver stated that the respect of safety is his first priority, and he would have never left his driver to restart the special stage if unfastened.

They argued that the car moved because of the gravity and the driver only accelerated when the co-driver was fully fastened.

The Stewards showed the video footage available on Rally.TV, in which it was clear that the safety belt of the co-driver was not properly fastened when the car was in motion on SS16 after they had rejoined the stage.

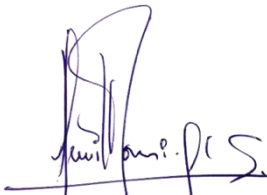
Art. 53.1 of the 2026 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations clearly states that the safety belts must be fastened whenever a car is in motion and, additionally, Chapter III Art. 4 of the Appendix L to the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code clearly states that the drivers must be properly restrained in their seat by safety belts in conformity with the technical regulations for the vehicle concerned at all times during a special stage.

The available video evidence showed that the safety belt of the co-driver of Car No. 55 was not properly fastened while the car was in motion.

The Stewards underline that it is the responsibility of the crew to ensure that the safety equipment is fastened, tightened and used correctly throughout the stage and also before restarting after stopping on a special stage.

The Stewards, after analysing the matter extensively, find that a breach of the applicable regulations has been committed and therefore decide to impose the penalty mentioned above, which is consistent with the penalties previously imposed for breaches of a similar nature.

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



David Domingo
The Stewards



Edoardo Delleani



Yiannis Kantas

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

<i>Name (in block letters):</i>	SAMANTHA GRAY	<i>Date:</i>	28.6.2026
<i>Position within the team:</i>	TEAM MANAGER	<i>Time:</i>	22:30

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