
Date: 30.03.2024 **Time:** 12:20 hrs
Subject: STEWARDS DECISION No. 6 **Document No:** 2.7

From: The Stewards
To: The Competitor NIKHIL SACHANIA of car No. 36
Crew NIKHIL SACHANIA / DEEP PATEL

All Competitors / crew members

The Stewards, having received a report from the Clerk of the Course, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

Facts Competitor No. 36 service vehicle was driving in the opposite direction on SS4 before the Sweeper car had finished the stage.

Offence Breach of Art. 12.2.1.h of the 2024 FIA International Sporting Code.

Decision To impose a **fine of € 2000** on the Competitor NIKHIL SACHANIA of car No. 36

In accordance with Art. 12.8 of the 2024 FIA International Sporting Code, fines shall be paid within 48 hours of their notification. Any delay in making payment may entail Suspension during the period a fine remains unpaid.

Reason The Stewards examined the data available and heard from the Team Manager Mr. KIRAN PATEL and the Chief Mechanic Mr. TINU KHAN of the Competitor NIKHIL SACHANIA on Friday 29th March at 16:00 hrs and 18:00 hrs and heard from the Sweeper car crew Mr. RAHJEET SINGH SEHMI and Mr. SHAKEEL KHAN on Saturday 30th March at 09:10 hrs.

The initial hearing scheduled for 16.00 hrs was postponed to 18:00 hrs as Mr. KIRAN PATEL explained that he had no information about the incident and needed to ask Mr. TINU KHAN to attend the meeting in order to give further explanations, as he was still out in the stages.

In the resumed meeting, Mr. TINU KHAN explained that they had received special permission from the Rally Organiser to allow the team vehicle of car No. 36 to meet their driver Mr. NIKHIL SACHANIA at the end of each stage to assist him to exercise his back and to help him out of the car if needed, as the driver is wheelchair bound and needs assistance while entering and exiting the rally car. He further explained that when he was at the start line of SS4 he received a phone call from the co-driver Mr. DEEP PATEL but due to the bad reception he only heard that the crew had rolled the car on the stage. As their driver needs assistance, he was worried on how he would get out of the car at the accident scene. Mr. TINU KHAN added that after the phone call he drove to the stop line of SS4 to understand if he could go to help his driver at the scene. Mr. TINU KHAN further explained that at the stop line of SS4 he saw the last car No. 40 finish the stage and one person with a blue shirt and a radio waved him into the stage to drive in the opposite direction. He admitted that he had entered the stage in the opposite direction but driving slowly and keeping as much as possible to the left side of the road towards the crash scene of car No. 36, which was approximately 7.7 km away. He also stated that at some point he saw the Sweeper car coming towards him on the stage and he immediately pulled over to the field to let the Sweeper car pass. On being questioned whether the marshals had tried to stop him on the stage, he answered that about 700-800 m before the crash scene there

was a marshal who stopped him and asked him to leave the stage, after which he used the field to reach the crash venue without driving on the special stage.

The driver of the Sweeper car Mr. RAHJEET SINGH SEHMI stated that when they stopped at the crash scene of car No. 36, the driver Mr. NIKHIL SACHANIA had already been airlifted away from the accident venue. He further added that they had later met the white Subaru Forrester driving in the opposite direction approximately 6.1 km before the finish line. The oncoming car pulled over to the field to let them pass.

The Stewards, having reviewed the reports received through the Clerk of the Course from the stage marshals and the radio marshal of SS4, investigated the case thoroughly and concluded that there was no permission given to the service vehicle of car No. 36 to enter the stage in the opposite direction. The stage marshals stated that on SS4 the service car (white Subaru Forrester) of car No. 36 drove around the stop line and the finish line at SS4 and entered the stage without permission. The stage marshals further explained that approximately 0.8 km from the finish line to the direction of the start line the driver of the service vehicle was stopped by the radio marshal and was asked to turn around and leave the stage in the correct direction, but he continued to drive in the opposite direction.

The Stewards acknowledged that there was a permission given by the FIA to the Competitor of car No. 36 to assist the driver Mr. NIKHIL SACHANIA at end of the special stages, but while understanding the concern that Mr. TINU KHAN may have had on the well-being of the crew of car No. 36 after rolling the car, they nevertheless considered that the situation created by entering the stage in the opposite direction without permission given could have had serious consequences.

The Stewards conclude that unauthorised entrance to the stage and driving in the opposite direction of the rally route entail a serious safety risk and thus constitute a breach of Art. 12.2.1.h of 2024 FIA International Sporting Code.

Having considered the matter thoroughly and taking into account that the crew of car No. 36 are non-priority drivers, the Stewards find a fine to be appropriate in this case.

The Stewards also advise the KENYA MOTORSPORT FEDERATION to monitor the behaviour of the Competitor NIKHIL SACHANIA on other national rallies regarding possible similar infringements.

Considering the special circumstances surrounding this case, this decision shall not be considered as a precedent for future decisions 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 2024 FIA International Sporting Code and Chapter 4 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules.



Silver Kütt
The Stewards



Henrik Frank



John Kamau

Re: Stewards Decision No. 6 – SAFARI RALLY KENYA 2024

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

<i>Name (in block letters):</i>	KIRAN PATEL	<i>Date:</i>	30.3.2024
<i>Position within the team:</i>	TEAM MANAGER	<i>Time:</i>	12:25

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