
Date:	12.05.2024	Time:	19:00 hrs
Subject:	STEWARDS DECISION No. 4	Document No:	2.5

From: The Stewards
To: The Competitor ARMINDO ARAUJO of car No. 41
Crew ARMINDO ARAÚJO / LUÍS RAMALHO

All Competitors / crew members

The Stewards, having received a report from the WRC Promoter, summoned the driver of Car No. 41, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

Facts The driver of car No. 41 was wearing on several occasions throughout the event the racing overalls displaying a tyre brand “Michelin” logo, which is not the FIA nominated tyre supplier.

Offence Breach of Art. 29.5.3 of the 2024 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations

Decision To impose a **Fine of € 3000** on the driver Mr. ARMINDO ARAÚJO, this fine being applied with suspension of sentence subject to no further breach of the above-mentioned article and other articles related to promotional activities at any events during the remainder of the 2024 FIA World Rally Championship and until the end of the 2025 FIA World Rally Championship.

Reason A hearing was held on Sunday 12th May 2024 at 17.35 hrs, in the presence of driver Mr. ARMINDO ARAÚJO and co-driver Mr. LUÍS RAMALHO.

Mr. ARMINDO ARAÚJO stated that he was approached by the WRC Promoter after the “Meet the Crews” session in Figueira da Foz on Thursday 9th May 2024 and was asked to remove or obstruct the “Michelin” logo on the crew’s racing overalls. The crew then changed their racing underwear to a non-branded black version and covered the logo on the racing overalls with some tape. Unfortunately, the tape did not stick very well on the overall and constantly fell off. The crew then also tried to find new overalls for the following day, but unfortunately all the overalls that the crew had were displaying the inappropriate tyre brand logo for the FIA WRC. Finally, for the final day they found a solution, which was to cover the not allowed tyre brand logo on the racing overalls with the FHR Hybrid device.

Mr. ARMINDO ARAÚJO furthermore admitted that they had made a mistake and sincerely apologised for their lapse.

The Stewards reviewed the report received from the WRC Promoter, which stated that the driver Mr. ARMINDO ARAÚJO was advised on Thursday 9th May 2024, after the “Meet the Crews” session, and on Saturday 11th May 2024 at the “Meet the Crews” session, by the WRC Promoter accreditation manager, Mr. MIGUEL FONSECA, to remove or obscure the not allowed branding on the racing overalls. Furthermore, the report stated that Mr. MIGUEL FONSECA had also sent a WhatsApp message to ARMINDO ARAÚJO PR manager, Mr. NUNO CASTRO, on Friday 10th May 2024 early morning to remind that the logo on the racing overalls had to be removed or obstructed.

The Stewards also received through the Competitor Relations Officer a message from Mr. ARMINDO ARAÚJO on 12th May 2024 at 9:02 hrs, which confirmed what was stated by the driver during the hearing. Mr. ARMINDO ARAÚJO further presented his apologies to the WRC Promoter, Pirelli and FIA for this unfortunate situation.

Considering that the driver Mr. ARMINDO ARAÚJO had already been advised to find a solution to remove or obstruct the not allowed tyre brand logo on Thursday 9th May 2024 evening and the non-compliance was finally solved on Sunday 12th May 2024, the Stewards find that Mr. ARMINDO ARAÚJO did not take all necessary measures to solve this issue urgently as advised by the WRC Promoter. The Stewards concurred that this incident had a negative impact on the commercial rights of the WRC and for the FIA nominated tyre brand "PIRELLI".

Having considered the matter extensively, the Stewards concluded that this was a clear breach of Art. 29.5.3 of the 2024 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations and found the above penalty to be appropriate in this case.

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



David Domingo



Luís Tourais de Matos

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

<i>Name (in block letters):</i>	NUNO CASTRO	<i>Date:</i>	12.5.2024
<i>Position within the team:</i>	TEAM REPRESENTATIVE	<i>Time:</i>	19:05

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