



2026 Olympus Rally Car 199 Protest Decision

From:	The Panel of Stewards for the Protest	# of pages: 3
Date:	24 April 2026	Time: 05:10PST
Subject:	Car 199 Protest Decision	

A Protest being in compliance with GCR 9.2 was accepted by the Stewards (submitted in writing, signed by the competitor representative, within the required time frame and accompanied by the stipulated protest fee).

The Chief Steward J.B. Niday formed a Panel of Stewards per GCR 9.10 comprised of:

- ARA Senior Steward and Protest Hearing Chair Mark A. Williams
- ARA Senior Steward Justin Pritchard
- ARA Steward Rob Bohn

This Protest Decision documents the findings and the decision of the Panel of Stewards following an online Protest Hearing held on Thursday 23 April 2026 at 17:30EST in compliance with GCR 9.5.

Present at this hearing prior to its closing for Steward-only deliberations were:

- The Panel of Stewards listed above
- The Olympus Clerk of the Course, Matt Flaisig
- ARA Competition Director, J.B. Niday
- The Protestors AJ Johnson (Events Manager at Vermont Sportscar representing the crew of car 199) and Dylan Edmiston (Vermont Sportscar)

Applicable Regulations

The following regulations are relevant to the determination of this Protest:

- *RCR 6.3.1* which specifies that restart time penalties are to be added to the fastest time within the crew's entered class (Limited 4WD) or the lateness time if there are no vehicles in that class.
- *GCR 2.* that defines "Category" as the grouping of classes in which competitors are awarded championship points at eligible events.
- *Bulletin 2026-1* which defines the National Championship Category "LN4" as a combination of Limited 4WD and Naturally Aspirated 4WD.

Grounds of Protest (Protestors' Arguments)

- The Protest (attached) was submitted by the Event Manager for Car 199 (Pastrana/Gelsomino) following the Clerk of the Course's response to an Inquiry regarding the class-based calculation of restart-after-retirement (RAR) penalties. The Protestors contend that this method of calculation results in a competitive inequity.
- The Protestors assert that there was a misapplication of "class" versus "category". They argue that, because Bulletin 2026-1 combines classes into categories for the purpose of championship scoring — and because scoring is determined by total penalties — RAR penalties under RCR 6.3.1.b must be calculated at the category level rather than the class level.
- The Protestors further contend that the championship procedures set forth in Bulletin 2026-1 supersede RCR 6.3.1.b in matters relating to scoring, and that the penalties were therefore incorrectly applied.

Application of Regulations by Officials

- The Clerk of the Course confirmed, and the Stewards verified, that the RAR penalties and times were correctly applied in accordance with the applicable regulations.
- The Competition Director emphasized that anyone taking part in a competition has knowledge of and submits to official interpretations of the regulations as dictated by GCR 1.3 and 3.4 and affirmed that Bulletin 2026-1 and GCR 6.3.1.b were intentionally structured and historically applied such that RAR penalties are calculated at the class level.

The Findings of the Panel of Stewards

- *On Application of the Regulations.* The Stewards find that RCR 6.3.1.b clearly and unambiguously requires that restart-after-retirement penalties be calculated using the fastest time within the competitor's entered class. The Stewards are satisfied that this requirement was applied correctly and consistently in the published results.
- *On "Class" vs "Category".* The Stewards find that the definition of "Category" in GCR 2 and its use in Bulletin 2026-1 pertains to the allocation of championship points and does not modify or override the explicit calculation method prescribed in RCR 6.3.1.b. No provision exists within the regulations that establishes a hierarchy whereby Bulletin 2026-1 supersedes RCR 6.3.1.b for the purpose of calculating penalties.
- *On Discretion.* The Stewards find that RCR 6.3.1.b is prescriptive in nature and provides no discretion in its application. Once the conditions for restart-after-retirement are met, the method of calculating the penalty is fixed and does not permit adjustment, mitigation, or alternative interpretation.
- *On Jurisdiction.* In accordance with GCR 6.2.3, the Stewards' authority is limited to the interpretation and application of the regulations as written. The Stewards do not have

the authority to amend, waive, or disregard the regulations, nor to grant relief on the basis of perceived fairness or proportionality.

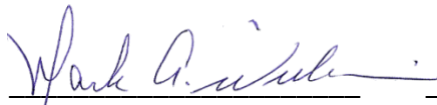
Decision: Having determined that the regulations were correctly applied, that no discretion exists within the applicable provisions, and that the Stewards lack jurisdiction to grant the remedy sought, **the Protest is denied.**
The protest fee is forfeited.

Rationale:

- *Nature of the Protest.* The Stewards find that the Protest primarily challenges the interpretation and interaction of regulations, rather than identifying an error in their application. Such arguments, to the extent they concern the structure or fairness of the regulations, fall outside the scope of a protest and are more appropriately directed to the rule-making authority.
- *No Basis for Remedy.* As the applicable regulations were correctly applied and provide no discretion, there exists no regulatory basis upon which the Stewards may grant an alternative outcome
- *Forfeiture of Protest Fee.* In accordance with GCR 9.9.a, the protest is adjudged to be without merit and the protest fee is therefore forfeited.

The right of appeal is set out in General Competition Rules Article 10. Notwithstanding GCR 10.3, the 30-minute time limit for notification of intent to appeal is extended to 24 hours from the time this Protest Decision is published on the Sportity Official Notice Board.

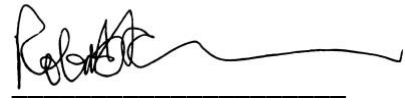
Notification of intent to appeal shall be submitted to the Senior Steward at mark@americanrallyassociation.org. Such notification is only valid if it includes authorization to charge the appeal fee to the team's credit card on record with ARA.



Mark A. Williams



Justin Pritchard



Rob Bohn