



OLYMPUS RALLY
17-19 April 2026

DECISION 5

From: The Stewards Mark Williams & Rob Bohn
To: All Competitors, Event Officials, ARA Registration

Date: 19 April 2026
Time: 00:00 PST

The Stewards, having received a Clerk Communication from the Clerk of the Course Matt Flaisig regarding an improper procedure by Car No. 337 Hunter/Augustine have considered the matter and determine the following:

Time: The report was received at 22:20 on 17 April 2026

Facts: Car No. 337 did not follow the prescribed route between TC2C4 and TC4 as established by RallySafe tracking data.

Rules: RCR 6.4.7 identifies failure to follow the prescribed route as an improper procedure infraction subject to penalty imposed by the Stewards per GCR 7.4.

Decision: The Stewards impose a penalty of 1 minute in accordance with GCR 7.4.c

Reasons:

- The Stewards interviewed the Co-driver of Car No. 337, who acknowledged initially following an incorrect route segment (TC2C to TC3) that had been cancelled by Bulletin No. 8. Upon recognizing the error, the crew elected not to return to the prescribed route to TC4, instead choosing a more direct route in order to avoid an estimated lateness of approximately five minutes at TC4.
- The requirement to follow the prescribed route between controls is fundamental to the equitable conduct of a rally. Deviation from the assigned route undermines route control, may confer a competitive advantage or avoid required transit and community constraints, and complicates event operations and tracking. Compliance with route instructions, including amendments issued by bulletin, is mandatory.
- While the Stewards accept that the initial navigation error was inadvertent, the subsequent decision not to return to the prescribed route constitutes a deliberate deviation. Although there is no evidence of a material competitive advantage, safety risk, failure to report to the next control, or adverse community impact, the conscious nature of the non-compliance elevates the seriousness of the infraction beyond a purely minor procedural error.
- A 1-minute time penalty is therefore considered appropriate and proportionate. It reflects the need to sanction both the deviation and the crew's decision to mitigate its consequences outside the prescribed route, while remaining measured in the absence of demonstrated competitive gain or safety impact. The penalty serves as both a deterrent and a reinforcement of the obligation to follow the prescribed route at all times.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 9 of the ARA General Competition Rules.

Mark A. Williams, Senior Steward

Rob Bohn, Event Steward