

**Date:** 14.02.2026

**Time:** 21:15 hrs

**Subject:** STEWARDS DECISION No. 6

**Document No:** 2.7

**From:** The Stewards

**To:** The Competitor HYUNDAI SHELL MOBIS WORLD RALLY TEAM of car No. 11  
Crew THIERRY NEUVILLE / MARTIJN WYDAEGHE

All Competitors / crew members

The Stewards, having received a report from the FIA Deputy Technical Delegate, reviewed TV and onboard footage of the infringement below, summoned the above Competitor's representative, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

**Facts** The Driver of Car No. 11 (THIERRY NEUVILLE) did not have his helmet correctly fastened during the running of SS15 (Umeå Sprint 2).

**Offence** Breach of:

- Article 53.1 of the 2026 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations
- Appendix L, Chapter III, Art. 1 of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code
- Appendix 5 - Rally Sweden 2026 Supplementary Regulations
- Article 12.2.1.h of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code

**Decision**

- 1) A one (1) minute time penalty on the Competitor HYUNDAI SHELL MOBIS WORLD RALLY TEAM of Car No. 11 to be applied to the special stage time of SS15 (Umeå Sprint 2).  
The stage time for Competitor of Car No. 11 is accordingly modified to 04:47.3
- 2) a fine of € 1500 on the Driver THIERRY NEUVILLE of Car No. 11

In accordance with Art. 12.8 of the 2026 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 Competitor was given the possibility, if he wished, to bring forward any representations other than having forgotten to properly wear the safety equipment.

The Competitor informed the Stewards that he would make representations.

The Stewards heard from the Team Manager, PABLO MARCOS, of Competitor HYUNDAI SHELL MOBIS WORLD RALLY TEAM of Car No. 11, on Saturday, 14 February 2026 at 19:50 hrs.

The Stewards reviewed the relevant onboard and Live TV footage of Car No. 11 on SS15 (Umeå Sprint 2). The footage clearly showed that the Driver's helmet chin strap was not fastened while the car was in motion on the special stage.

The Team Manager stated that the Driver was using a new helmet and, due to the extreme weather conditions, was unable to feel that the chin strap was not properly secured. He acknowledged that the Driver is fully aware of the mandatory requirements to wear the helmet correctly at all times and apologised on behalf of the Driver for his lapse.

Appendix L, Chapter III, Article 1 of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code requires that drivers wear homologated helmets and safety equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Article 53.1 of the 2026 FIA World Rally Championship Sporting Regulations further mandates that, whenever a car is in motion on a special stage and until the stop control, the crew must wear homologated crash helmets and all required safety equipment as intended by the equipment manufacturer. Appendix 5 of the Rally Sweden Supplementary Regulations further reiterates the obligation to comply with Appendix L. The helmet chin strap is an integral component of the helmet's protective function and must be fastened to ensure that the helmet performs as designed. In accordance with Article 12.2.1.h of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code, any unsafe act or failure to take reasonable measures resulting in an unsafe situation constitutes an offence.

The Stewards accept that the Driver did not intentionally start or continue the stage with the helmet strap unfastened. However, the correct use of safety equipment is a fundamental responsibility of every competitor. The failure to ensure that the helmet was properly fastened while the car was in motion constitutes an unsafe act and therefore a breach of the aforementioned articles.

Having considered the matter extensively, the Stewards deem it appropriate to impose both a time penalty and a financial penalty, in line with previous precedents.

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.



Mazen Al-Hilli  
The Stewards



Kai Tarkiainen



Janne Rydh

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

Name (in block letters):	<b>PABLO MARCOS</b>	Date:	<b>14.02.2026</b>
Position within the team:	<b>TEAM MANAGER</b>	Time:	<b>21:20</b>

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