



July 14, 2026

The Rally Colorado organizers received an inquiry from Tim Wickberg, driver of car 418 which was referred to the stewards who further referred it to the Competition Director.

The inquiry asks about the status of the legality of car 199.

The purpose of this document is to reply to that inquiry.

The steward's decision regarding the protest of car 199 included the statement, "GCR 9 does not describe what powers the Panel of Stewards has to fill these gaps, so, aside from make recommendations to ARA, we take no action."

The stewards determined that while they believe one of the changes to be in violation of RTR 4.4.32, the authority of the Technical Director supersedes their opinion.

The appeal panel stated, "The Panel finds that an exception of this nature — one that the Stewards themselves characterized as significant — ought to have been communicated to the competitor community at large by means of a published bulletin or equivalent official notice."

Neither the stewards nor the appeals panel overturned the determination by the Technical Director that the modifications were "interpretations" or "clarifications" rather than "exceptions". The interpretation and clarification called out by the stewards and the appeals panel regards the notches in the frame rail referenced in the inquiry. The ARA Technical director has interpreted that these notches are not inconsistent with RTR 4.4.5 or 4.4.32. This is formally an "interpretation" or "clarification". These modifications are approved for all Limited 4WD cars.

The Competition Director has decided, as stated in the "ARA RTR Exceptions" documents at 100 Acre Wood and Olympus, "Car 199 Pastrana / Gelsomino is not listed above as it has not been granted any exceptions. The results of the protest and appeal after Sno*Drift of the interpretations and clarifications related to the Limited 4WD class will be documented in detail shortly." This decision supports the authority of the Technical Director.

The decision of the Technical Director stands. Car 199 and any other Limited 4WD car with similar modifications are legal.

It is worth noting that several Limited 4WD teams have corresponded with the Technical Director about the legality of the modifications to car 199 specifically asking if they could do the same thing and all have been told, "yes".



Teams should know that their correspondence with the Technical Director will remain confidential. One of the main points of discussion during the protest and appeal was whether correspondence between teams and the Technical Director should be private or public. Such conversations shall remain private unless they result in exceptions which shall be made public.

The appeal panel also stated, "The Panel directs the ARA to undertake a review of the procedures governing pre-event Technical Director determinations, with the objective of establishing clear, published requirements for the documentation, communication, and official notification of any exception or interpretation that materially affects the permissible configuration of competing vehicles. Appropriate amendments to the GCR and/or RTR should be adopted in advance of the 2027 competition season."

This expectation is met for the remainder of the 2026 season by the "ARA RTR Exceptions" posted at 100 Acre Wood and subsequent ARA events. The deadline imposed by the appeal panel for ARA to adopt and publish regulatory amendments is "in advance of the 2027 competition season." The 2027 rules will be amended to clarify that modifications which are the subject of this inquiry are legal along with other clarifications for greater transparency.

J.B. Niday

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JB Niday', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ARA Competition Director