FIA WORLD RALLY-RAID CHAMPIONSHIP

W2RC DAKAR RALLY 2025

01 – 17 January

Date:	**Wednesday, 15th January 2025**	Time:	**20.30 hrs**
Subject:	**STEWARDS DECISION N° 40**	Document No:	**2.42**
From:	The Stewards		
To:	Competitor **No 400** Name: **SEBASTIEN LOEB RACING – RZR FACTORY RACING** Crew **XAVIER DE SOULTRAIT / MARTIN BONNET**		
	Number of pages: 2		*Attachments: -*

The Stewards, having received from the FIA Sporting Delegate video evidence, having heard the crew members and the Team Manager (Mr. Jean-Philippe Nicolao), have considered the following matter, and after due deliberation determine the following:

Fact: During SS9, the ON-BOARD SURVEILLANCE CAMERA (OBSC) was covered for some time after the crew stopped the car and turned off the engine.

Offence: Breach of Art. 13.5.2 of FIA 2025 CCRSR

Decision: **- Disqualification Competitor Car No 400 from Dakar Rally 2025,** which is **suspended until the end of Dakar Rally 2025** subject to no further breach of similar nature committed by the competitor during this period.

- To impose a 60-minute time penalty on the Competitor Car No 400 on Selective Section 9.

Reason: During the hearing, the crew members declared that the OBSC and an organiser's camera are installed close together. They explained that it is the first time they are equipped with OBSC, and that sometimes in previous events they have covered the organiser's camera. They also explained that they used to put the gloves on the organiser's camera if they had to stop during the stage.

They also admitted having stopped several times during the selective section 9 due to some issues with the dashboard, restarting the engine in order to try to solve the problem. The crew members explained that they might have accidentally covered the OBSC during one of the stops, as it is installed right next to the organiser's camera.

Art. 13.5.2 of the FIA 2025 CCRSR states that *"Team members or third parties are forbidden to interfere with or move any such device"*.

The Stewards decide that in this case the behaviour of the crew in covering the OBSC constitutes a serious breach of the regulations. The image captured by the OBSC can be used to assess whether the crew has infringed the requirements of the regulations (sporting regulations, technical regulations, safety regulations, etc.).

The purpose of the OBSC is to ensure fair competition during the event and to ensure that safety requirements are strictly observed. The covering of the OBSC shows a disregard for the objectives pursued by the installation of the OBSC, i.e. it defeats the purpose of ensuring a fair sporting competition and the respect of safety requirements.

The stewards decide that in this case the crew of car No 400 committed an infringement as it did not comply with the requirements of Art. 13.5.2 FIA 2025 CCRSR.

On the penalty to be imposed. The Stewards consider that the penalty to be imposed in this case is disqualification. However, given that the stewards have reason to believe that the crew will not repeat this type of infringement, there is reason to suspend the disqualification until the end of the event. It is also necessary and fair to impose a time penalty in this case.

The decision is based on the FIA 2025 International Sporting Code Art. 11.9.1, Art. 11.9.2.a, Art. 11.9.3. a, Art. 11.9.3.f, Art. 12.3.1, Art. 12.4.1.h., Art. 12.4.1.m, Art. 12.9.1 and Art. 12.4.6.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 15 of the FIA 2025 International Sporting Code and Chapter 4 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules, within the applicable time limits.

Arnas PALIUKENAS
Chair of the Panel of Stewards

Omar ZAROUR
FIA Steward

Saleh ALEM
ASN Steward

Received by:

Competitor: **SEBASTIEN LOEB RACING – RZR FACTORY RACING** *Car No:* ***400***

Crew: **XAVIER DE SOULTRAIT / MARTIN BONNET**

Date: *Time:* 21:55. *Signature:*

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