



Susquehannock Trail Performance Rally, 9-11 Jul 2026

DECISION 4

posted at: 10 Jul 2026 19:00

From: the Steward

Date: 10 Jul 2026

To: Scoring, Clerk of the Course

Time (decision): 13:25

The Steward, having received a report from the Clerk of the Course, has considered the following matter and determined the following:

Driver, Co-driver, and car No: Becca GT, Helen Park, Car 129

Date and Time (fact): 10 Jul 2026 12:06 (approx.)

Session: Special Stage 5

Fact: Car 129 was the last car to finish Stage 4. While transiting to the next stage, the team left the rally route. Because they eventually returned to the route at the point where they left it and then continued on to the next control, it is believed that they had taken a wrong turn.

The combination of Car 129 finishing Stage 4 last and the additional time that they took to complete the transit would have resulted in an unusually large gap between the last two cars. When the event was deciding when to send Safety Sweep, it was not known whether Car 129 intended to start Stage 5. In the interests of safety and to limit the gap between competing vehicles, the event opted to send Safety Sweep three minutes after the car ahead of Car 129 started. After Safety Sweep passed ATC 5, the control was closed.

Not long after Car Safety Sweep had been despatched and ATC 5 closed, Car 129 arrived at ATC 5 intending to check in and run the stage but was unable to do so because the ATC was closed and the start marshals had been stood down.

After learning Car 129's intent, the event facilitated transiting Car 129 through Stage 5. From there they caught up with the field and continued to run the event.

On the stages that Car 129 had run competitively, their stage times were at or somewhat longer than the stage lateness times.

Offence: N/A

Decision: Car 129 is excused from not checking into ATC 5 and may continue to compete in the event without penalty. On Stage 5, the one they were transited, they are to be scored with the stage's Lateness time.

Reason: In this situation, the event was put in a bind. The Safety Sweep is the first responder for the last competition vehicle to start the stage. A delay in sending it is a delay in how quickly it can respond to an incident involving that car. However, the competition rules allow for all cars, including the last competing vehicle, to be up to 30 minutes late. The problem is that starting Safety Sweep after a 30 minute late competitor would create an unacceptable risk for the competing vehicle starting ahead of them.

While ARA has been discussing guidelines for what to do when this happens, these guidelines have not been published, so this situation is now handled on an ad hoc basis. If these guidelines had been published, the event should have waited 10 minutes before sending Safety Sweep, not 3 minutes like they did, but they cannot be blamed for not following unpublished guidelines.

Through Stage 5, Car 129 had met the finishing qualification of checking into all controls along the route (see RCR 6.7). The decision to exclude the need to check into ATC 5 is to allow the team to be qualified as a finisher should they finish the remainder of the rally.

The assigned stage time is consistent with the team's performance on other stages.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Steward, in accordance with Article 10 of the ARA General Competition Rules.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'APerry', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Alan Perry, Event Steward