

Date: **Friday, 16th January 2026**
Subject: **STEWARDS DECISION 30**

Time: **20.15 hrs**
Document No: **2.31**

From: *The Stewards*

To: *Competitor No 611 Name: **BEN DE GROOT***

*Crew: **BEN DE GROOT / AD HOFMANS / GOVERT BOOGAARD***

Number of pages: 2

Attachments: -

The Stewards, having received a report from the Clerk of the Course (Doc. 3.51), having summoned and heard the Crew members and the Team Manager (Mr. Bert BROUWERS), have considered the following matter, and after due deliberation determine the following:

Fact: During SS11 and SS12, the crew of Competitor No. 611 consisted of only two persons, whereas the vehicle is entered with a crew of three persons for the event.

Offence: Breach of Article 2 (Definition of 'Crew') of the 2026 FIA CCRSR

Decision: **To impose a fine of 500 Euros on Competitor No. 611.**

In accordance with Article 12.8 of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code, the payment of the fines must be done 48 hours of their notification. Fines may be paid by means of any mode of payment, electronic included (<https://fiafines.fia.com>). Any delay in making payment may entail suspension during the period the fine remains unpaid.

Reason: During the hearing, the driver stated that he had been suffering from back pain since the 6th of January following an impact on SS3. On that same day, he immediately visited the medical service, who indicated that it was likely muscle pain and provided him with painkillers. After the completion of SS10, the pain intensified, and he visited the medical center again. At that moment he was informed that it was not possible to carry out a scan at that time.

On the morning of the 15th of January, the pain had increased to such an extent that the driver considered it unsafe to start the stage. At that moment, the crew went to the CRO tent at the bivouac, but unfortunately no one was present. They therefore texted a member of the ASO competitors' department, who forwarded the messages to the CRO. Unfortunately, due to various circumstances, these messages did not reach the Clerk of the Course. The two remaining members of the crew subsequently started SS11, as they believed this to be permitted under the regulations and completed SS11 and SS12 before the issue was reported to the Clerk of the Course.

After a scan was eventually carried out on the afternoon of the 15th of January, it was revealed that the driver had sustained a vertebral compression fracture, the results of which were only communicated on the afternoon of 16th of January.

During the hearing, the FIA Sporting Delegate explained the background of the definition of a crew in article 2 of the FIA CCRSR. It is possible to enter a truck with only two persons; however, if a truck is entered with three persons, all three must be on board the vehicle on the road sections and the selective sections making up the itinerary.

The Stewards find that there has been a breach of the regulations in this case. In determining the penalty, the Stewards take into consideration that the regulations allow a truck to participate in the event with only two crew members. Furthermore, they take into account as a mitigating circumstance that the crew acted in good faith and made several attempts to contact the officials to explain the situation. However, they should have used the CRO contact numbers as published in Bulletin No. 3 and as presented during the general drivers' briefing.

Given the fact that this competitor is a non-priority driver and given all the information provided the Stewards find the above-mentioned fine is appropriate in this case.

The Stewards decision was made based on 2026 FIA ISC Art. 11.7.1.a, Art. 11.7.3.a and Art. 12.4.1.c.

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 FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules.



Jan SEINEN
Chair of the Panel of Stewards



Alqassim HAMIDADDIN
FIA Steward



Saleh ALEM
ASN Steward

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

<i>Name (in block letters):</i>	BERT BROUWERS	<i>Date:</i>	16.01.2026
<i>Position within the team:</i>	TEAM MANAGER	<i>Time:</i>	22:00

Published on the Digital Notice Board on 16/01/2026 at 22.50 hrs.