

Date: **Wednesday, 07th January 2026**

Time: **07.15 hrs**

Subject: **STEWARDS DECISION 9**

Document No: **2.10**

From: *The Stewards*

To: *Competitor No 317 Name: OSCAR RAL*

Crew: OSCAR RAL / FERNANDO ACOSTA

Number of pages: 2

Attachments: -

The Stewards, having received a report from the Clerk of the Course with photo evidence (Doc. 3.19), having summoned and heard the Team Principal (Mr. Alex RUIZ) and the Team Manager (Mr. Germán POLO) on the 06.01.2026 and the Crew members on the 07.01.2026, have considered the following matter, and after due deliberation determine the following:

Fact: Competitor Car No. 317 received external physical assistance during SS3.

Offence: Breach of Article 49.1.2 of the FIA 2026 Cross-Country Rally Sporting Regulations.

Decision: **To disqualify Competitor Car No. 317 from the Dakar Rally 2026.**

Reason: During the hearing, the crew stated that they had lost a wheel and were unable to continue driving. They did not have the necessary tools on board to carry out the repairs themselves and therefore had to wait for the assistance truck. While waiting, a spectator approached the crew and attempted to help by jumping on the vehicle; however, he was also unable to repair the issue. The crew was subsequently towed by a truck to the refuelling zone. After the refuelling zone, the crew waited for further assistance.

The driver and navigator stated that they were not aware that receiving external physical assistance was prohibited. They indicated that there was no intention to gain any time advantage and apologised for this lapse.

Article 49.2.1 of the 2026 FIA CCRSR clearly states:

"The crew, using solely the equipment on board and with no external physical assistance, may perform service on the vehicle at any time, other than where this is specifically prohibited."

In the absence of an opportunity to complete a stage without external physical assistance, the competitor would be subject to the rule provided 2026 FIA CCRSR in Article 34.1: *"any crew which has failed to complete a stage will be assumed to re-start the event from the start of the stage unless they confirm otherwise to the Clerk of the Course in writing (...)".*

The competitor would be subject to a time penalty. However, the competitor could continue the competition. The competitor No 317 resorted to external assistance, which is not legal. The Stewards decide that there is no reason to apply a more lenient penalty than disqualification in this case.

This decision is based on 2026 FIA ISC Art. 11.7.1.a, Art. 11.7.3.a, Art. 11.7.3.f, and Art. 12.4.1.m.

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:

Name (in block letters):	GERMÁN POLO	Date:	07.01.2026
Position within the team:	TEAM MANAGER	Time:	07:50

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