
Date: 19.11.2023 **Time:** 12:40 hrs
Subject: STEWARDS DECISION No. 5 **Document No:** 2.6

From: The Stewards
To: The Competitor M-SPORT FORD WORLD RALLY TEAM of car No. 24
Crew GRÉGOIRE MUNSTER / LOUIS LOUKA

All Competitors / crew members

The Stewards, having received a report from the Clerk of the Course, summoned the above crew members as well as the Competitor's representative, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

Facts The crew of car 24 did not follow the defined roadway after SS15 as described in Road Book 2, page 69 (point A) and box 37 on page 70 (point B).

Offence Breach of Article 19.2 of the 2023 FIA World Rally Championship Sporting Regulations.

Decision No penalty is applied.

Reason The Stewards heard from the Driver and Co-driver of car No. 24, in the presence of the Competitor's Team Principal, Mr. Richard Millener, on Saturday 18th November 2023 at 20.50 hrs.

The crew acknowledged that they had not followed the rally route after SS15 as described in the Road Book but they stated that they were instructed to do so by the police and by a rally official.

They explained that they were stuck in a traffic jam when they were stopped by a police car. They had difficulties in communicating with the police officers due to the language barrier, but they understood the police were concerned they were travelling too slowly. They then tried to explain that the reason why they were travelling so slowly was because they were seeking to avoid excessive clutch use. The police allowed them to proceed but shortly after they stopped them again.

While talking with the police, a vehicle bearing rally stickers stopped and a person, who appeared to be an official of the rally, offered to assist them in communicating with the police. After talking to the police officers, the official told them that the instructions given by the police were that they should follow the official's car, while the police car would follow them.

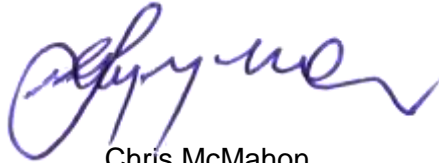
They further explained that when the official's vehicle started to take a route not in accordance with the rally route, they stopped and informed the official about this. The official then told them that this was the route they were supposed to take. At this moment, they felt compelled to follow the official's instructions.

The Stewards determined that, while the crew was in breach of Article 19.2 of the FIA World Rally Championship Sporting Regulations, the explanations given by the competitor would nevertheless allow granting mitigating circumstances, and therefore concurred to apply no penalty in this case.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 15 of the 2023 FIA International Sporting Code and Chapter 4 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules.



François Dumont
The Stewards



Chris McMahon



Kunihiro Tabata

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

<i>Name (in block letters):</i>	CÉLINE GUÈS	<i>Date:</i>	19.11.2023
<i>Position within the team:</i>	SPORTING COORDINATOR	<i>Time:</i>	12:45

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