



Competitor Review – Robert Sanders

From: The ARA Competitor Review Court

Date: 3/23/2024

To: Car 26 at Rally in the 100 Acre Wood – Robert Sanders

Time: 1100 CDT

The ARA, having received information from numerous persons, decided to convene a Court under GCR 5.13 to review the conduct of Mr. Robert Sanders, ARA license holder and USAC Member. The Court convened to review the available information and conduct interviews with the relevant persons.

Time (fact): 3/22/2024 1400 CST (approximately)

ARA Court: Preston Osborn, Alan Perry, and Justin Pritchard

Findings: Following the publicity of Mr. Sanders and Ms. Speare’s crash during reconnaissance at the Rally in the 100 Acre Wood, accusations and jokes were made about the situation on social media. Mr. Sanders and Ms. Speare were active on social media defending the situation and spawned several public arguments.

In response to the crash, Stewards Decision 7 was issued on March 16 following an investigation by the Stewards of the Event. They found no evidence related to the incident to justify a penalty on either Mr. Sanders or Ms. Speare. Following release of the decision, Mr. Sanders direct messaged at least 9 people on social media on March 16 demanding public apologies.

Most of those people did not respond to the messages and Mr. Sanders’ messages became increasingly aggressive, harassing, and sexual in nature with some. The Court received screenshots of the messages from eight of the individuals who received them from Mr. Sanders. The Court was able to verify that Mr. Sanders was the source of the messages and Mr. Sanders does not deny sending them. The messages continued to be sent until at least until March 21. After one of the persons blocked Mr. Sanders on social media, a message written on a card along with flowers were sent on March 22 to the person’s place of work.

The messages continued and became more aggressive and explicit after the Notice of Review was posted. Some competitors received over 30 messages from Mr. Sanders without acknowledgement or response.

In the hearing, Mr. Sanders did not present credible defense on why the messages he sent did not constitute harassment. He stated several reasons for the messages such as: “trying to trigger them”, “get inside their heads”, retaliation, and gain a competitive advantage against those he was messaging. He did not see fault or issue with the messages and does not believe they are harassment. Mr. Sanders believes the messages were justified due to the actions of others in the community and the accusations surrounding his incident on reconnaissance. His accusations against others will be investigated separately if evidence is provided.

Offense: GCR 5.14

Decision: The Court, exercising GCR 5.2 and 7.11, have decided to suspend Mr. Robert Sanders indefinitely from all ARA activities. His ARA license and USAC Membership is revoked immediately and not eligible for re-issue.

Reason: After considering the content of the messages sent to several persons and reviewing Mr. Robert Sanders' defense, the Court has decided the messages in several cases were continued harassment and directly threatening. This is not a situation that is taken lightly and must be dealt with severely. The punishment is the highest available to the Court.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the ARA, in accordance with Part IX of the USAC Rulebook.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Osborn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Preston Osborn
ARA Competition Director