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**Date:** 26.01.2024 **Time:** 18:00 hrs  
**Subject:** STEWARDS DECISION NO. 4 **Document No:** 2.5

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**From:** The Stewards  
**To:** The Competitor HENK VOSSSEN of car No. 49  
Crew HENK VOSSSEN / WILLEM VISSENBERG

All Competitors / crew members

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

**Facts** On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 the Crew of Car No. 49 checked in at TC 0A 31 minutes late (so one minute over the maximum permitted lateness) as they were held up by the police for 47 minutes following a speeding infringement on a road section. The crew was then verbally informed by an official that, according to Art. 34.3.4 of the 2025 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations, they would be considered as retired at the end of the section and that the penalties provided for in the regulations would be applied, which would be notified in writing by the Clerk of the Course at the end of the Section. The crew therefore decided not to continue. As the police took 47 minutes to handle the speeding infringement and to check the car's compliance with the French traffic laws, the above addressed competitor requested the Clerk of the Course:

- to delete the time penalty applied for exceeding the maximum permitted lateness
- to delete the time penalty applied for missing SS 3 (as the stage was stopped)
- to keep the time penalties applied for missing SS 1 and SS 2

**Decision** The requests of the competitor of car No. 49 **cannot** be granted.

**Reason** The Clerk of the Course submitted to the Stewards a comprehensive report with the communication exchange between him and Competitor No. 49. It has also to be noted that the Clerk of the Course issued Notification No. 4 to the Competitor of Car 49, applying Art. 34.3.4 of the 2025 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations.

The crew was informed accordingly by the Stewards and was given the possibility to bring forward any further submissions. The driver Mr. HENK VOSSSEN reached out to the Chair of the panel of Stewards by phone on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 16:45 hrs. He stated that basically all information related to the incident had been submitted in writing to the Clerk of the Course. They were aware that they had breached the traffic laws but, in their opinion, the Police treated them unfairly as it took them a long time to check their car's road compliance with the French traffic rules. This point was reiterated during the phone call.

Art. 34.3.1 of the 2025 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations stipulates that "*Throughout the rally, both crew members must observe the national traffic laws*". Furthermore, in Art. 34.3.2 of the 2025 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations it is clearly stated that: "*In the case of an infringement of the traffic laws committed by a crew participating in the rally, the police officers or officials having noted the infringement must inform the offender thereof, in the same way as for normal road users*".

The Stewards acknowledge that being held up by the police as well as the length of their investigation had serious consequences for the competitor. However, they also conclude

that respecting the traffic laws is the sole responsibility of the crew and therefore they must bear all consequences associated with a traffic infringement.

The Stewards also investigated the procedure in the allocation of a notional time in case a special stage is stopped or interrupted. In their opinion a retired crew is not affected by the interruption and therefore the penalties as per Article 54.2.1 of the 2025 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations were correctly applied by the Clerk of the Course.

Hence the Stewards conclude that the requests by competitor of car No. 49 cannot be granted.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 15 of the 2025 FIA International Sporting Code and Chapter 4 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules.



Tanja Geilhausen  
The Stewards



Edoardo Delleani



Jean-François Calmes

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

<i>Name (in block letters):</i>	<b>LOU AMBAUM</b>	<i>Date:</i>	<b>26.1.2025</b>
<i>Position within the team:</i>	<b>TEAM REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<i>Time:</i>	<b>18:05</b>

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