



31 July - 3 August 2025

 Date:
 03.08.2025
 Time:
 19:35 hrs

 Subject:
 STEWARDS DECISION No. 4
 Document No:
 2.6

From: The Stewards

To: The Competitor TOYOTA GAZOO RACING WRT of car No. 17

Crew SÉBASTIEN OGIER / VINCENT LANDAIS

All Competitors / crew members

The Stewards, having received a report from the FIA Media Delegate, summoned the above Driver as well as the Competitor's representative, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

Facts The Driver of Car No. 17 used inappropriate language during the post event "Meet

the Crews" session at podium, which took place on Sunday 03rd August 2025.

Offence Breach of Article 12.2.1.I of the 2025 FIA International Sporting Code.

**Decision** To impose a warning on the Driver SÉBASTIEN OGIER.

**Reason** A hearing was held on Sunday 03rd August 2025 at 18.00hrs in the presence of the

Sporting Director Kaj Lindström.

Mr. Sébastien Ogier was not present because he had already left the rally venue, and

was on an aircraft flying to home.

In the absence of the Driver, Sébastien Ogier, Mr. Kaj Lindström agreed with the Stewards to proceed with the hearing and to issue the decision in accordance with Article 13.6.4 of the 2025 FIA International Sporting Code.

The Stewards reviewed the audio recording of Driver Sébastien Ogier during the "Meet the Crew" live interview session at Secto Rally Finland, in which he stated: "remembering one year ago the shit feeling all we had."

The Competitor's representative acknowledged that the use of such word was inappropriate in this environment and apologised, on behalf of Mr. Ogier, for the lapse. He further stated that the Driver did not mean to offend or hurt anyone by using this word and it was only a reminder of the bad results he and team recalled from last year's event.

The Stewards recognise that the word in question has become colloquial and is often used as an expression of emotion, but at the same time emphasize that the FIA remains committed to ensuring that inappropriate language is not used in any public areas such as media conferences where crews are interviewed.

Within this context, the 2025 FIA International Sporting Code (FIA ISC) defines this particular breach as misconduct: "... the general use of language (written or verbal), gesture and/or sign that is offensive, insulting, coarse, rude or abusive and might reasonably be expected or be perceived to be coarse or rude or to cause offense, humiliation or to be inappropriate ..." Further to that, the FIA has also introduced Appendix B in its International Sporting Code (updated version published on 14th May 2025), which serves as Stewards Penalty Guidelines to penalise violations of certain articles of its International Sporting Code, including the breach stated above.

## **SECTO RALLY FINLAND**





In determining the appropriate penalty for this breach, the Stewards have considered that:

- This is the first breach of Article 12.2.1.I of the 2025 FIA International Sporting Code by the Driver.
- The expression used is a rather colloquial term in certain cultures and was not intended to be offensive.
- The word was used after many compliments to the Organizers of Secto Rally Finland and was proceeded by warm congratulations to his teammate Kalle Rovanperä.
- There is no evidence to suggest that it was meant to cause offense to any other party.
- The Competitor issued an unprompted apology to the Stewards and the FIA.
- Mr. Lindstrom assured the Stewards that he would ask the driver to exercise greater caution in the future.

Taking the above mitigating factors into account, the Stewards have determined that the aforementioned penalty is in line with the Guidelines stated in Appendix B of the 2025 FIA International Sporting Code.

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.

Edoardo Delleani The Stewards Mazen Al-Hilli

Riku Ritter

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

Name (in block letters):	KAJ LINDSTRÖM	Date:	3.8.2025
Position within the team:	SPORTING DIRECTOR	Time:	19:40

Published on the Organiser's Digital Notice Board on 3.08.2025 at 19.50 hrs.