
Date: **Friday, 19th January 2024** Time: **23.00 hrs**
Subject: **STEWARDS DECISION N° 25** Document No: **2.28**

From: *The Stewards*
To: The Competitor **SOUTH RACING CAN-AM** of Car No. **337**
Crew **JOAO MONTEIRO / NUNO MORAIS**

And

The Competitor **RED BULL OFF ROAD JR TEAM USA PRESENTED BY BFG** of Car No. **303**
Crew **MITCHELL GUTHRIE / KELLON WALCH**

Number of pages: 3

Attachments: 0

PROTEST lodged by

The Competitor of car No. 337 **SOUTH RACING CAN-AM** (Crew **JOAO MONTEIRO / NUNO MORAIS**)

Against

The Competitor of car No. 303 **RED BULL OFF ROAD JR TEAM USA PRESENTED BY BFG** (Crew **MITCHELL GUTHRIE / KELLON WALCH**)

Procedure:

1. On Wednesday January, 17th 2024, the Clerk of the Course received at 19.00 hrs a protest lodged by the Competitor of car No. 337 addressed to the Chairperson of the Stewards of RALLY DAKAR 2024.
2. Competitor No. 337 claimed in their protest that the clutch of Competitor No. 303 is not compliant with FIA 2024 International Sporting Code - Appendix J Art. 286 – 2 - Obligations.
3. Both parties were summoned and heard together by the Stewards. The following persons were present at the hearing:

On behalf of Competitor No. 337:	Scott ABRAHAM Anne-Marie GERANDI	Team Representative Team Representative
On behalf of Competitor No. 303:	Hendric Willem WEVERS Patrick GERRITSEN Marlon KRIEGER	Team Representative Team Representative Team Representative
FIA Technical Delegate	Christophe VELY	

The hearing was held on Friday 19th January 2024 at 22:05 hrs in the Stewards' Room with all the Stewards present.

4. No objections were raised against the composition of the Stewards panel.

5. At the hearing the parties referred to the documents previously submitted. None of the parties submitted further evidence nor initiated the hearing of additional persons or asked to conduct further investigations.
6. Since the protest filed against the alleged non-compliance of Automobiles with the regulations, the necessary checks were carried out and a FIA TD report was received (Doc 6.10), which stated that the clutch system of car No. 303 was found in compliance with Art. 286 and more especially with Art. 286-2.1 & 286-8.1.

On the Admissibility:

7. The Stewards examined the admissibility of the protest:
 - 7.1 The protest was lodged in due time, in accordance with Art. 13.3 of the FIA 2024 International Sporting Code.
 - 7.2 The protest was lodged by a single competitor against a single competitor as stipulated in the FIA 2024 International Sporting Code Art. 13.1.1 to 13.1.3, Art. 13.7.3 and Art. 13.7.4.
 - 7.3 The subject of the protest was against an alleged non-compliance of *Automobiles* with the regulations, as stipulated in the FIA 2024 International Sporting Code Art. 13.2.1 and Art. 13.4.1.
 - 7.4 The protest was properly accompanied by the protest deposit of € 1000, as stipulated in Art. 13.4.2 of the FIA 2024 International Sporting Code, Art. 60.2.1 of the FIA 2024 CCRSR and in Art. 14.2 of the event Supplementary Regulations.

The Stewards find that the protest is admissible and that the requirements of the Code have been complied with.

Hearing of the Parties:

Protester:

The protestor stated that the reason for his protest is because two other vehicles were disqualified for clutch non-compliance with the regulations, and that they needed to know if this car had the same clutch type as those. They stated that after reviewing the regulations and communicating with the manufacturer they insist that the clutch used in the said car is made of composite materials.

Competitor of Car No. 303:

The competitor representative stated that they trust the information specified in the FIA TD report.

Technical Delegate:

The TD reconfirmed the information he stated in his report regarding the conformity of the clutch used in the car.

After the hearing was closed by the Chairperson at 22:35, the Stewards took the following decision after due deliberation.

Decision:

8. **The protest is admissible.**
9. **The protest is rejected.**
10. **No further action against Competitor No. 303.**
11. **Protest fee is not to be returned to the Protester.**

Reason:

The Stewards received the protest alleging the clutch type in Car No 303 is not in compliance with Art. 286-2.1 & 286-8.1.

During the hearing the protester explained the reason for submitting the protest, and the competitor Car No 303 also explained the reasons for using this type of clutch in their vehicle.


The TD was requested to inspect the alleged breach and confirm it is compliance with the abovementioned articles, and his report (Doc No. 6.10) confirms it is compliant. Both parties were shown the report of the TD.

Based on the TD report the Stewards decided that the regulations were not breached.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 15 of the 2022 FIA International Sporting Code and Chapter 4 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules.




Arnas PALIUKENAS
FIA Chairperson of the Stewards




Omar ZAROUR
FIA Steward



Saleh ALEM
ASN Steward

Competitor: SOUTH RACING CAN-AM *Vehicle No:* 337
Crew: JOAO MONTEIRO / NUNO MORAIS
Date: 19.01.2024
Time: 23:35 *Signature:* 

Competitor: RED BULL OFF ROAD JR TEAM USA PRESENTED BY BFG *Vehicle No:* 303
Crew: MITCHELL GUTHRIE / KELLON WALCH
Date: 15/01/24
Time: 23h27 *Signature:* 

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