

Date: **Thursday, 18th January 2024**
Subject: **STEWARDS DECISION N° 19**

Time: **18.30 hrs**
Document No: **2.21**

From: *The Stewards*

To: The Competitor of car **No 204 TEAM AUDI SPORT**
Crew: **Carlos SAINZ / Lucas CRUZ**

Number of pages: 1

Attachments: 0

The Stewards, having received from the FIA Sporting Delegate a video evidence, investigated the action that was shown, have considered the following matter, and after due deliberation determine the following:

Fact: The crew of car # 204 was not wearing their seatbelts in the correct way for approx. 16 seconds in the selective section no 10, although the vehicle was in motion.

Offence: Breach of the article 47.1 of the FIA 2024 CCRSR

Decision: to impose a time penalty of 1 minute on SS 10

Reason: The Stewards have been made aware of a video from an on-board camera shows that car No 204 had to stop on SS 10.

The on board video received by the Stewards shows without doubt that the crew of car # 204 was not wearing their seatbelts in the correct way for approx. 16 seconds in the selective section no 10, although the vehicle was in motion. A similar violation was committed twice (the first time the duration was 10 sec, and the second time - 6 sec).

The Cross-Country Rally Sporting Regulations are very clear in article 47.1 in saying: ***“Whenever a vehicle is in motion on any type of Selective Section and until the stop control, the crew must wear homologated crash helmets, all required safety clothing and equipment in compliance with Appendix L Chapter III – Drivers’ Equipment as intended by the equipment manufacturer and have their safety belts correctly fastened.”***

The safety belts together with the Frontal Head Restraint (FHR) are major safety items to protect the crew in case of an accident. It is essential for the driver’s safety and safety is one of the major concerns of the FIA. Safety remains a key challenge and the FIA is committed to do everything possible to protect, among others, the drivers.

The stewards conclude that the crew's behaviour is a violation of the regulations. The Stewards further find that the crew gained a time advantage of 16 seconds through their non-compliant behaviour. A time penalty that also compensates for the time advantage is necessary.

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


Arnas PALIUKENAS
FIA Chairperson of the Stewards


Omar ZAROUR
FIA Steward


Saleh ALEM
ASN Steward

Competitor: **TEAM AUDI SPORT**
Crew: **Carlos SAINZ / Lucas CRUZ**
Time:

Vehicle No: 204

Date: 18/1/24 20:15

Signature: 