

Date:	Saturday, September 19th, 2026	Time:	18:30
Subject:	STEWARDS DECISION 8	Document No:	2.9
From:	The Stewards		
To:	Competitor No 400 Name: RIO SECO RACING Crew: PAULO RODRIGUES / FAUSTO MOTA		
No. of pages:	1	Attachments:	0

The Stewards, having received a report from the Clerk of the Course, having examined the evidence and the tracking data, having summoned, heard the Crew on 19th of September 2026 at 18:00 h, have considered the following matter and after due deliberation determine the following:

Facts: After leaving TC 1E „Regrouping Out“, the crew deviated from the prescribed itinerary, returned approximately 12 km to the Service Park in Reguengos and remained there for 15 minutes and 30 seconds before returning to the start of SS2A.

Offence: **Breach of Art. 14.2.1 and Art. 49 of the 2026 FIA Cross-Country Rally Sporting Regulations**

Decision: **Disqualification from the event**

Reason: The Stewards established that, after leaving TC 1E, the crew proceeded towards TC 2 and the start of SS2A. Upon realising that the driver's frontal head restraint device was missing, the crew turned around and deviated from the prescribed itinerary, returning approximately 12 km to the service park in Reguengos. The vehicle remained there for around 15 minutes.

According to the official itinerary, as amended by Bulletin No. 3, there was no scheduled service between TC 1E and TC 2. The next scheduled service opportunity was at Service Park C after SS2A had been completed.

The Stewards concluded that the crew had deliberately deviated from the prescribed itinerary in order to obtain external assistance, which was not permitted at that point of the competition. The fact that this assistance was provided within the service park does not change this conclusion, since the service park was not part of the competitors' itinerary at that time.

Taking into account the deliberate deviation from the itinerary and the unauthorised external assistance received, the Stewards have decided that disqualification from the event is the appropriate penalty.

The Stewards decision was made based on 2026 FIA ISC Art. 11.7.1.a, Art. 11.7.3.a, Art. 11.7.3.f, Art. 12.4.1.m.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 15 of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code and Chapter 5 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules.



Wilhelm SINGER

Chair of the Panel of Stewards



Wolfgang GASTORFER

FIA Steward



Paulo LAGINHA

ASN Steward

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

Name (in block letters):	MOISES RODRIGUES	Date:	19.09.2026
Position within the team:	TEAM MANAGER	Time:	19:00