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<b>Date:</b>	31.08.2025	<b>Time:</b>	11:00 hrs
<b>Subject:</b>	STEWARDS DECISION No. 10	<b>Document No:</b>	2.11

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**From:** The Stewards  
**To:** The Competitor M-SPORT FORD WORLD RALLY TEAM  
Team Member Javier ROBLES

All Competitors / crew members

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The Stewards, having received a report from the Clerk of the Course with documentary evidence attached, summoned the above Team member, a Team Representative, related rally officials and a Radio marshal on SS9, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

**Facts** The meteo crew member with meteo vest No. 615 of Competitor M-SPORT FORD WORLD RALLY TEAM was driving on SS9 for approximately 8km overtaking organisers vehicles on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at around 5:15 am on a grey Chevrolet S10 pickup registered AAUI 679, marked as Auxiliary 099.

**Offence** Breach of Article 35.4.2 of the 2025 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations and Art. 12.2.1.h of the 2025 FIA International Sporting Code.

**Decision**

- 1) Fine of € 5000** on Competitor M-SPORT FORD WORLD RALLY TEAM
- 2) An additional fine of € 20000** is imposed on the Competitor M-SPORT FORD WORLD RALLY TEAM, which is applied with suspension of sentence until the end of the 2025 WRC season (expiring on November 30, 2025) on condition that the Competitor commits no further breach of Art. 35.4.2 of the 2025 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations (respect of reconnaissance timetable).

In accordance with Art. 12.8 of the 2025 FIA International Sporting Code, fines shall be paid within 48 hours of their notification. Any delay in making payment may entail Suspension during the period a fine remains unpaid.

**Reason** A hearing was held on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at 13:35 hrs in the presence of Team member Mr. Javier ROBLES and Team Representative Ms. Samantha GRAY of Competitor M-SPORT FORD WORLD RALLY TEAM. The Stewards presented the Clerk of the Course report, police documentation, and received testimonies from both of them.

Mr. Javier ROBLES confirmed that he was wearing meteo crew vest No. 615 and that he was driving the grey Chevrolet S10 pickup registered AAUI 679, marked as Auxiliary 099, on SS9 at the location mentioned above. He acknowledged that he was working for M-SPORT FORD WORLD RALLY TEAM to perform road temperature and condition monitoring duties and that he had entered SS9 on the morning of 30<sup>th</sup> August using Google Maps for navigation. He admitted having mistakenly inserted his work location on SS9 into the navigation system. He added that he had entered SS9 via the junction at 12.98 km, driving approximately 1.4 km in the reverse direction of the stage route, before realising that he was on the stage, at which point he had turned around and had exited through the same point where he had entered. He also admitted overtaking some vehicles while driving on the stage, but without speeding. Ms. Samantha GRAY explained that the Team had engaged Mr. Javier ROBLES locally being Ueno Rally Del Paraguay 2025 an overseas event and taking into account the significant costs involved to fly people over from Europe. His contact was provided by the local organiser, and he was briefed by the Team's technical staff. She

confirmed that the instructions given to Mr. Javier ROBLES were clear: he was not allowed to enter the special stage by car and was permitted to access his observation location on foot only. She further confirmed that, following this incident, the Team immediately terminated Mr. Javier ROBLES's duties for the remainder of the rally.

The Stewards held a hearing on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at 16:15 hrs with Operations Chief Mr. Carlos VILLATE, Deputy Operations Chief Mr. Fernando TURTOLA and Deputy Operations Chief Mr. Augusto MASI of Ueno Rally Del Paraguay 2025. Each official was positioned in a different setup convoy vehicle and was driving in different groups of vehicles, which also included Ambulances and a Public Prosecutor's car.

Mr. Augusto MASI, who was positioned in the last convoy, reported that at approximately 3.8 km on SS9, at 05:15 hrs on Saturday, a grey Chevrolet S10 overtook his vehicle from the left at a unsafe speed and manner, while stage personnel were working outside their vehicles. Mr. Fernando TURTOLA, who was in the middle convoy, also noticed the vehicle but did not report it immediately. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Carlos VILLATE, who was driving in the first convoy, was overtaken by the same vehicle at an estimated speed of 50 km/h in a narrow section, causing a risk to rally personnel working along the route.

At the junction at 12.98 km, the driver of the Chevrolet S10 left the stage and parked the car close to the stage. Upon arrival at this location, Mr. Carlos VILLATE approached the driver to question him about his dangerous behaviour. He responded that he was in a hurry, had not realised his speed and apologised for his actions.

The Stewards also heard from Radio Point Marshal Mr. Gustavo GARCÍA of Ueno Rally Del Paraguay 2025 on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at 17:25 hrs. He stated that he was on duty at the 12.98 km point o SS9 from 04:00 hrs, overseeing the arrival and parking of rescue vehicles, organiser cars and spectator vehicles in the designated mid-stage area.

Mr. Gustavo GARCÍA confirmed that at around 04:45 hrs a Toyota Meteo crew car arrived, followed by a Hyundai meteo crew, at approximately 05:00 hrs. At around 05:30 hrs, a grey Chevrolet S10 approached the location coming from the stage in the direction of the rally route, and exited the stage at 12.98 km at a relatively high speed before stopping on the adjacent side road. He noted that the closure tape at that location had already been removed to have faster access for emergency vehicles arriving to this location, thus allowing the vehicle to enter without obstruction.

Mr. Gustavo GARCÍA stated he had later instructed the Chevrolet driver to move the car to the designated meteo crew parking area. When Mr. Carlos VILLATE arrived, he requested to meet with the driver of the Chevrolet, accompanied by Mr. Gustavo GARCÍA. Mr. Carlos VILLATE questioned Mr. Javier ROBLES regarding his driving behaviour, for which the driver apologised. He explained that he had overslept in the morning and was in a hurry. Mr. Gustavo GARCÍA also confirmed that shortly afterwards, the driver had re-entered the stage on foot, and while returning, was approached by the police to question him regarding this incident and to conduct an alcohol test, which resulted to be negative.

The Stewards held a second hearing with the Team member Mr. Javier ROBLES and the Team Representative Ms. Samantha GRAY of M-SPORT FORD WORLD RALLY TEAM on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at 18:30 hrs, following additional information received from stage officials and rally personnel.

The Stewards presented new evidence indicating that Mr. Javier ROBLES had overtaken stage setup vehicles at approximately 3.5, 4.0 and 5.0 km on SS9 in the direction of the stage finish. When asked to clarify the exact location where he had entered the stage, Mr. Javier ROBLES reaffirmed that he had entered from the junction at 12.98 km but changed his earlier statement, now stating that he had

intended to drive 1.4 km towards the stage start in order to inspect his designated work location and then to return to the parking area.

Mr. Javier ROBLES also confirmed that he had overslept that morning but insisted in saying that he was not in a hurry.

The Stewards conclude that the actions of Mr. Javier ROBLES constitute a serious breach of the safety protocols and a violation of Article 35.4.2 of the 2025 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations as well as Art. 12.2.1.h of the 2025 FIA International Sporting Code. Driving a team vehicle on a closed special stage route without authorisation, overtaking stage setup convoys and causing risks for rally officials and emergency teams represent an unacceptable conduct, especially during a World Rally Championship event.

It is the responsibility of the Competitor to ensure that all team personnel are properly trained, briefed and understand the restrictions and procedures in place during an event. In this case, the failure to prevent such behaviour endangered the safety of the stage and working officials, and could also be interpreted as illegal reconnaissance. The Stewards take note of M-SPORT FORD WORLD RALLY TEAM full cooperation and acknowledge the immediate termination of Mr. Javier ROBLES from his Team member's duties.

The Stewards, after due deliberation, consider the penalty above to be appropriate and proportionate in this case. The Competitor is urged to review and strengthen its internal procedures to avoid any similar situation in the future.

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.



Silver Kütt  
The Stewards



Vincenzo Spano



Francisco Peroni

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

<i>Name (in block letters):</i>	<b>SAMANTHA GRAY</b>	<i>Date:</i>	<b>31.8.2025</b>
<i>Position within the team:</i>	<b>TEAM MANAGER</b>	<i>Time:</i>	<b>11:05</b>

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