
Date:	07.11.2025	Time:	14:00 hrs
Subject:	STEWARDS DECISION No. 2	Document No:	2.3

From: The Stewards
To: The Competitor R2RX YAHAGI RACING TEAM of car No. 27
Crew HIROKI ARAI / HIROKI TACHIKUI

All Competitors / crew members

The Stewards, having received a report from the FIA Deputy Technical Delegate with documentary evidence attached, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

Facts During routine checks at the Stop Control zone at the end of SS1, the Driver of Car No. 27 was found to be wearing a balaclava with FIA Standard 8856-2000 homologation, which is not valid for using in WRC events.

Offence Breach of Article 53.1 of the 2025 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations and Article 2 of the 2025 International Sporting Code Appendix L, Chapter III

Decision **Fine of € 500 on the Driver Mr. Hiroki ARAI of car No. 27**

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 The Stewards examined the report from the FIA Deputy Technical Delegate, the photographic evidence, the signed scrutineering declaration form and heard from the Team Engineer Mr. Satsuki NAKANO of Competitor R2RX YAHAGI RACING TEAM and from the Driver Mr. Hiroki ARAI of Car No. 27 on Friday 7th November at 12.05 hrs.

The Driver explained that Mr. NAKANO, who is responsible for pre-rally scrutineering, had accidentally mixed up the balaclavas for the Crew of Car No. 27 while preparing the racing suit bag. The Driver stated he was unaware that the wrong balaclava was in the car and only realised the error when the scrutineers carried out the checks after SS1. He apologised to the Stewards and presented the correct, homologated balaclava he has been using since SS2.

Mr NAKANO, attending his first WRC event as an engineer, confirmed that he was responsible for the pre-rally scrutineering and that the balaclava shown then was mistakenly mixed up with an old balaclava while packing the racing suit bag for Mr. Hiroki ARAI. He also apologised for his error.

The Stewards accept that the wrong balaclava was included in the driver's equipment bag by mistake and that the driver did not intend to breach the regulations.

Nevertheless, the use of non-homologated safety equipment constitutes a breach of the applicable 2025 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations and the 2025 International Sporting Code. Taking into account the above circumstances, the cooperation of the Competitor, the fact that the balaclava was properly fitted on SS1 despite having non valid homologation and that the correct item has been used since SS2, the Stewards find the above penalty to be appropriate in this case.

The Stewards emphasise that this decision was taken considering the particular circumstances surrounding this case and should not be regarded as a precedent for future similar cases.

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



Chris McMahon



Kunihiro Tabata

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

<i>Name (in block letters):</i>	TAKASHI HASEGAWA	<i>Date:</i>	7.11.2025
<i>Position within the team:</i>	TEAM MANAGER	<i>Time:</i>	14:05

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