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<b>Date:</b>	10.09.2023	<b>Time:</b>	15:15 hrs
<b>Subject:</b>	STEWARDS DECISION No. 16	<b>Document No:</b>	2.17

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**From:** The Stewards  
**To:** The Competitor HYUNDAI SHELL MOBIS WORLD RALLY TEAM of Cars No. 11, 4 and 6

All Competitors / crew members

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The Stewards, having received a report from the FIA Technical Delegate Assistant, summoned the above competitor's representative, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

- Facts** A member of HYUNDAI SHELL MOBIS WORLD RALLY TEAM was taking pictures of other competitors' cars in Parc Fermé (TC 12D).
- Offence** Breach of Article 2.13 of the 2023 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations and Article 12.14 of EKO Acropolis Rally Greece 2023 Supplementary Regulations.
- Decision**
- 1) Reprimand on Competitor HYUNDAI SHELL MOBIS WORLD RALLY TEAM
  - 2) A fine of € 5000 on the Competitor above, which is suspended for 12 months (expires Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024) subject to no further breach of a similar nature (breach of Parc Fermé regulations – 2023 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations Article 2.13 and corresponding texts relating to Parc Fermé in the Sporting and Supplementary Regulations) during this period.
- Reason** The Stewards, having received the report from the FIA Technical Delegate Assistant, summoned and heard from the Competitor's Team Manager Mr. TOLGA OZAKINCI on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 10:15 hrs.

The report received by the Stewards stated that a member of the Competitor's team was taking pictures in Parc Fermé, via his mobile phone, of other competing cars. The team member's presence, in Parc Fermé, was authorised through the provision in Article 12.14 of the EKO Acropolis Rally Greece 2023 Supplementary Regulations, which states "*one representative of each Manufacturer together with the hybrid system provider's representative are allowed to enter the overnight parc fermé 20 minutes before the competitor's car due start time to ensure that the car's high voltage system starts-up normally when the main power is switched on*".

The Competitor's team manager commented that he was made aware of this incident shortly after it occurred. He stated that this team member was new in this role, was acting on his own accord, and was taking photos for his own personal remembrances. The team manager also declared and affirmed that the action of taking photos of other competitor cars was in no way linked to the team or to a request from them. He was forthcoming in stating that there is no possible advantage (for his team) or need to collect any images or records of other competitor cars while in Parc Fermé, especially in light of this Rally's unique Itinerary (i.e. not having the usual or scheduled morning service after release from Parc Fermé). The team manager discussed various scenarios, theoretically, where advantages may or may not be gained with data/photos collected in Parc Fermé and concluded that any information/data collected would be insignificant or obsolete. Nevertheless, the team manager agreed that the actions constituted a breach of the Parc Fermé regulations. The team manager apologised on behalf of the team member in question for the lapse in judgment.

Following the hearing with the team manager, the Stewards asked to hear from the team member who had committed the breach, who joined the hearing at a later stage. The team member corroborated the statements heard from the team representative and confirmed that he took the photos of his own volition and did not intend to act upon them in any way that would deem the outcome as illegal. He admitted that it was a mistake as he was unaware of the regulatory limitations of his action. The team member apologised and took the onus of responsibility for his actions.

Parc Fermé is defined in Article 2.13 of the 2023 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations as *“an area in which any operation, checking, tuning or repair on the car is not allowed unless expressly provided for by these regulations or by the supplementary regulations of the rally and where only authorised officials are admitted”*. Further to that, and notwithstanding Art. 2.13 (quoted previously), Article 12.14 of the EKO Acropolis Rally Greece 2023 Supplementary Regulations does provide an allowance for a qualified member of the Competitor’s team to be present to perform and observe specific duties relating to the *“hybrid system”* for the Competitor’s car(s) ONLY. Moreover, Article 1.1.4 of the 2023 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations clearly states that *“Anything that is not expressly authorised by these regulations is forbidden.”* As such, the Stewards deem that the personal volition of the team member to take photos while performing a clear, limited and defined role in Parc Fermé corresponds to a breach of these regulations.

Article 9.15 of the 2023 FIA ISC places the burden of responsibility on the Competitor for the actions and consequences of actions by any person(s) to whom the Competitor has allowed access (amongst others) to the Reserved Areas. Furthermore, it also places them (i.e. the person(s) allowed access) equally responsible to adhere to the Code and Championship regulations.

The Steward conclude that while the team member is obligated to adhere to the Code and regulations, it equally places the onus on the Competitor for responsibility for the actions of their team members.

In reaching this decision, the Stewards clarify that they do not discount this particular infringement nor do they wish to set a precedent to allow or tolerate such infringements. The Stewards wish that this Competitor as well as other Competitors take this opportunity to educate and train their team members on comprehension of basic principles of the Code and how to deal with matters relating to safety and fair competition.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 15 of the 2023 FIA International Sporting Code and Chapter 4 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules.

  
Mazen Al-Hilli  
Tanja Geilhausen  
Yiannis Kantas

The Stewards

**STEWARDS DECISION No. 16 – EKO ACROPOLIS RALLY GREECE 2023**

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

<i>Name (in block letters):</i>	<b>TOLGA OZAKINCI</b>	<i>Date:</i>	<b>10.9.2023</b>
<i>Position within the team:</i>	<b>TEAM MANAGER</b>	<i>Time:</i>	<b>15:20</b>

**Published on the Organiser's Digital Notice Board on 10.9.23 at 15:35 hrs.**