
Date: 22.01.2023 **Time:** 20.45 hrs
Subject: STEWARDS DECISION No. 11 **Document No:** 2.13

From: The Stewards
To: The Competitor PH SPORT of car No. 21
Crew YOHAN ROSSEL / ARNAUD DUNAND
and
The Competitor TOKSPORT WRT 2 of car No. 24
Crew NIKOLAY GRYAZIN / KONSTANTIN ALEKSANDROV

PROTEST lodged by

The Competitor of car No. 21 PH SPORT (Driver Yohan Rossel, Co-Driver Arnaud Dunand)

Against

The Competitor of car No. 24 TOKSPORT WRT 2 (Driver Nikolay Gryazin, Co-Driver Konstantin Aleksandrov)

Procedure:

1. On Sunday 22nd January 2023, the Clerk of the Course received at 15.41 hrs a protest lodged by the Competitor of car No. 21 addressed to the Chairperson of the Stewards of 91^e RALLYE AUTOMOBILE MONTE-CARLO.
2. The protest was accompanied with a cash deposit of € 1000.
3. Competitor No. 21 claimed in its protest that Competitor No. 24 was in breach of Art. 19.2 of the 2023 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations during SS14.
4. Video evidence was submitted with the protest.
5. Both parties were summoned and heard together by the Stewards.

Parties present at the Hearing:

6. The hearing was held on Sunday 22nd January 2023 at 18:10 hrs in the Stewards' Room with all Stewards present.
The hearing was also attended by Ms. Yvonne Gilli, FIA WRC Stewards Secretary.

7. The following persons were present at the hearing:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| On behalf of Competitor No. 21: | Coralie Barbassat | Team Co-ordinator |
| | Didier Clement | Team Representative |
| | | Head of Customer |
| | | Competition of Citroen Racing |
| On behalf of Competitor No. 24: | Nikolay Gryazin | Driver |
| | Konstantin Aleksandrov | Co-Driver |
| | Jacek Wryzykowski | Team Manager |

8. No objections were raised against the composition of the Stewards panel.
9. At the hearing the parties referred to the documents previously submitted. None of the parties submitted further evidence nor initiated the hearing of additional persons or asked to conduct further investigations.

On the Admissibility:

10. The Stewards examined the admissibility of the protest:
11. The protest was lodged in due time, in accordance with Art. 13.3 of the 2023 FIA International Sporting Code (scheduled time of publication of the Provisional Classification: 19.00 hrs on Sunday 22nd January 2023 / actual time of publication: 19.30 hrs).
12. The protest was lodged by a single competitor against a single competitor as stipulated in the 2023 FIA International Sporting Code Art. 13.1.1 to 13.1.3 and Art. 13.7.
13. The subject of the protest was against an alleged breach of the regulations during the competition, as stipulated in the 2023 FIA International Sporting Code Art. 13.2.1 and Art. 13.4.1.
The article mentioned by the protester was Art. 19.2 of the 2023 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations.
14. The protest was properly accompanied by the protest deposit of € 1000, as stipulated in Art. 13.4.2 of the 2023 FIA International Sporting Code, Art. 65.2 of the 2023 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations and in Art. 16.2 of the event Supplementary Regulations.
15. The Stewards find that the protest is admissible and that the requirements of the Code have been complied with.

Hearing:

16. The Stewards asked the Protester to explain the reasons of his protest.
17. According to the Team Manager, Mr. Coralie Barbassat from PH SPORT, Competitor No. 24 had not respected Article 19.2 of the 2023 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations arguing that car No. 24 cut a corner at Km. 13.2 on SS 14.
18. The video evidence submitted by the protester was shown to all parties.
19. Nobody raised exceptions regarding the video submitted as evidence.
20. The car livery and the competition number were visible on the video evidence attached.
21. The Stewards checked the place shown in the video with WRC+ Application and they found that the place matched with the place that was in the subject of the protest.
22. The Driver of car No. 24 Nikolay Gryazin stated that they had a puncture on the front right wheel during SS14 and it was difficult to control the car and respect the defined roadway at that corner.
23. Mr. Jacek Wryzykowski added that from his point of view, from the video footage shown it was very difficult to define if the four wheels were all outside the defined roadway.

24. The Chairperson gave the possibility to Competitor No. 24 to submit their on-board camera or other evidences if available.
25. The Competitor No. 24 submitted his on-board camera that was shown to all parties.
26. The video showed that the car No. 24 passed from tarmac to a mixture of gravel, where the road level changes.
27. Ms. Barbassat added that during the Drivers Safety Briefing the FIA Sporting Delegate had highlighted Art. 19.2 of 2023 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations
28. The Chairperson noted that when discussing what is the defined roadway, in tarmac rallies it should clearly be the tarmac part of the road.

After the hearing was closed by the Chairperson at 18h45, the Stewards took the following decision after due deliberation.

Offence:

- 29. Competitor No. 24 breached 2023 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations Art. 19.2.**

Decision:

- 30. The protest is admissible.**
- 31. The protest is upheld.**
- 32. To apply a Time Penalty of 5 seconds on Competitor No. 24, to be added on his time recorded on SS14.**
- 33. The protest fee to be returned to Competitor No. 21.**

Reasons

34. As stipulated in Art. 19.2 of the 2023 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations, the compulsory itinerary of the rally is defined in the Road Book by the road direction diagrams and between the road direction diagrams (as per this case) by the defined roadway.
35. The corner mentioned in the protest is located at Km 13.2 of SS14, between box 5 and box 6 of the Road Book 2 (pages 91-92).
36. From the Stewards' point of view, the corner in question is a very typical place where time can be gained if the defined roadway, as stipulated in Art. 19.2 of 2023 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations, is not used. After the tarmac edge, the road broadens to a mixture of gravel.
37. From the video evidence submitted with the protest and from the on-board camera submitted from Competitor No. 24, it can be seen that car No. 24 was driven outside the defined roadway.
38. It is visible in the video footage submitted by Competitor No. 21 and from the on-board camera provided by Competitor No. 24 that car No. 24 made a little leap on the tarmac limit on the corner.

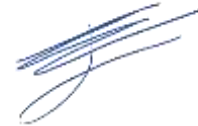
39. All the video evidence confirmed that corner-cutting was performed by car No. 24.
40. With a view to sporting fairness in competitions, the Stewards may exercise their authority under Art. 11.9.2.a, 11.9.3.f and 11.9.3.j of the 2023 FIA International Sporting Code.
41. The Stewards therefore concurred that the corner-cutting at that place was a breach of the 2023 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations Art. 19.2 as on tarmac surface events the roadway is clearly defined and a tyre puncture cannot be taken as mitigating circumstances.
42. Following the precedents for the same offences, the Stewards decided to impose the above-mentioned time penalty.



Edoardo Delleani
The Stewards



François Dumont



Jean-François Calmes

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.

This decision was notified by email to the Competitors' officially nominated representative as below:

Competitor No. 21

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <i>Name (in block letters):</i> | CORALIE BARBASSAT | <i>Date:</i> | 22/01/2023 |
| <i>Position within the team:</i> | TEAM CO-ORDINATOR | <i>Time:</i> | 21:00 |

Competitor No. 24

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <i>Name (in block letters):</i> | JACEK WYRZYKOWSKI | <i>Date:</i> | 22/01/2023 |
| <i>Position within the team:</i> | TEAM MANAGER | <i>Time:</i> | 21:00 |

Published on the Organiser's Digital Notice Board on 22/01/2023 at 21:25 hrs.