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**Date:** 09.05.2026 **Time:** 20:00 hrs  
**Subject:** STEWARDS DECISION No. 8 **Document No:** 2.9

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**From:** The Stewards  
**To:** The Organiser of VODAFONE RALLY DE PORTUGAL 2026  
**Cc:** All Competitors / crew members  
All Officials  
FIA WRC Commission  
FIA Road Sport Committee  
FIA Safety Committee  
FIA Closed Road Commission  
ASN FPAK

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The Stewards, having become aware of two incidents that occurred on SS7- Arganil 2, having heard the Clerk of the Course on behalf of the Organiser, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

**Facts** On Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026 on SS7 –Arganil 2 the first car (No. 33) caught a recovery vehicle at kilometre 16.03 (RB box 14). The recovery vehicle subsequently left the stage at kilometre 17.12 (RB Box 15).  
Later on SS7, car No. 21 caught another non-rally car on the stage, resulting in the SS being stopped.

**Offence** Unsafe acts and failure to take reasonable measures, thus resulting in an unsafe situation (2026 FIA International Sporting Code Article 12.2.1.h).

**Decision**

- 1- A reprimand is imposed on the Organiser.
- 2- A fine of **€ 15,000.00** is imposed on the Organiser, which is applied with suspension of sentence subject to no further breaches by the Organiser of Art. 12.2.1.h) of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2027 (or the comparable Article in future editions of the FIA International Sporting Code if changed).
- 3- Formally require the Organiser to further improve the existing safety measures to avoid any other safety issue during VODAFONE RALLY DE PORTUGAL 2026.
- 4- The present decision to be forwarded to the above-mentioned FIA Commissions and Committees and to the ASN FPAK.

**Reason** As stipulated in Art. 11.11.3 of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code, the Clerk of the Course is responsible for conducting the event in accordance with the applicable regulations.

The Stewards heard from the Clerk of the Course, Mr. Horácio Rodrigues on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 19.15 hrs as well as on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 13:15 hrs. The second hearing was also attended by Mr. João Paulo Jordao, as Representative of the Organising Committee, Mr. Jaime Alexandre Guerra Santos, Chief Safety Officer and Mr. Nicolas Klinger, FIA Safety Delegate.

The Clerk of the Course explained that it had been established that a recovery vehicle was on its way to collect a competitor who had retired from the rally. The driver had entered the GPS coordinates, and the sat-nav system directed him along the SS7. The driver of the truck was unaware that he had entered on to a running special stage. Nevertheless, the truck was able to pass several barriers marking the special stage. As the truck quickly escaped to a side road and was secured, the stage was not interrupted. Approximately 35 minutes later a second vehicle, which belonged to the same company as the recovery truck and was reportedly on its way to assist it, also passed the barriers and entered SS7 in front of car No. 21. The stage was then immediately red-flagged for safety reasons.

The Clerk of the Course and Mr. Jordao apologised for the incidents that had occurred. They stated that the Organiser had arrangements in place with the relevant civilian authority to provide security and road closures for the rally stages. They have confirmed that the investigation into the circumstances of this incident is still ongoing. The Clerk of the Course has also confirmed that at no time was the entry of these vehicles on to the stage communicated to Rally Control.

It is imperative that officials managing a stage (whether that is by marshals or contracted providers) are aware that they are bound by the agreed protocol. This involves not only denying access to unauthorised vehicles, but that they also have a duty to report any entry of vehicles onto the stage to the Rally Control immediately at any time when the stages are closed and running. Such communications are among the most important aspects of safety during a rally event, as this is the only way to ensure that competitors can be warned in good time of any unforeseen hazards.

Notwithstanding that the Organiser had arrangements with a third party for the management of the road closures for the stages, the Organiser remains responsible for the officials it appoints and the Clerk of the Course remains responsible for conducting the event in accordance with the applicable regulations and must ensure that the officials are at their post and are provided with the necessary information to carry out their duties.

The Stewards find the lack of communication of the entry of the vehicles onto the stage amounted to unsafe acts that lead to an unsafe situation, and therefore a breach of Art. 12.2.1.h of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code. The penalties mentioned above are imposed on the Organiser in order to encourage the continuous improvement with a specific focus on safety.

All interested parties 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.



Tanja Geilhausen  
The Stewards



Chris McMahon



Rui Carvalho

**RE STEWARDS DECISION No. 8 – VODAFONE RALLY DE PORTUGAL 2026**

This Stewards Decision was notified verbally to and accepted by the Clerk of the Course.  
A physical copy was delivered by hand.

<i>Name (in block letters):</i>	<b>HORÁCIO RODRIGUES</b>	<i>Date:</i>	<b>09.05.2026</b>
<i>Position:</i>	<b>CLERK OF THE COURSE</b>	<i>Time:</i>	<b>20:10</b>

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