



Southern Ohio Forest Rally, 11-13 June 2026

STEWARDS DECISION #1

From: The Stewards

Date: 13 June 2026

To: All Competitors, The Event Organizers, The Event Scorers

Time: 9:30

The Stewards, having received a request to assess a fine under RCR 6.8 to the crew of Car #36 for their unacceptable actions on Stage 5, have considered and determined the following:

Crew: Mike Cessna / Jamie Lambert, Car #36

Facts: The Stewards summoned both the Crew of Car #36 and the driver of the Safety Sweep vehicle to in-person interviews on the evening of 12 June which revealed the following facts:

- Car #36 was stuck off the side of the stage road on SS5 Top Gun North Short at Mile 8.1.
- Safety Sweep encountered Car #36 at that location.
- Due to the precarious position of the vehicle, Safety Sweep determined that collecting the crew's timecard from their car would be unsafe, told them that the following Heavy Sweep vehicle would pull them back onto the road, and proceeded traveling down the stage.
- The following Heavy Sweep vehicle, who was close behind, did indeed assist Car #36 in returning to the stage road.
- Once back on the stage road in front of the Heavy Sweep vehicle, the crew briefly discussed between themselves whether they were permitted to continue through the stage at competition speed. They admit having chosen to do so.
- RallySafe data confirms that Car #36 did indeed continue at speeds consistent with competition operation after being passed by Safety Sweep.
- After encountering another Sweep vehicle assisting a stopped competitor, the crew recognized that their actions were inconsistent with their status after being passed by Safety Sweep and reduced their speed to normal transit speeds. It was the crew of this Sweep vehicle who reported the behavior of Car #36 to the Clerk of the Course.
- Car #36 continued to the stage finish and surrendered their timecard to the stop control officials.

Rules: Breach of GCR 2. Terminology – Course Cars, GCR 7.1.e dangerous driving and GCR 6.3.3.i empowering Stewards to enforce allegations of dangerous driving.

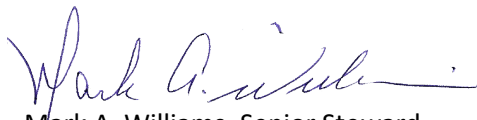
Decision: For driving dangerously after the stage road had become a transit due to the passage of Safety Sweep and the inherent safety implications of doing so, the crew of Car #36 is fined \$500.

Payment shall be made in accordance with ARA procedures outlined in GCR 7.6.

Reasons:

- GCR 2 Terminology - *Course Cars* provides that any cars behind the first course-closing car (in this case the Safety Sweep vehicle) are transiting the stage.
- The Stewards find that Car #36 had been passed by Safety Sweep and was therefore no longer entitled to operate as a competition vehicle on SS5.
- The Stewards further find that the crew knowingly considered the question of whether they could continue at competition speed after being passed by Safety Sweep and elected to do so.
- Although the crew subsequently recognized their error and reduced their speed to transit pace, the decision to continue at competition speed after being passed by Safety Sweep constituted a violation of GCR 2 and a breach of GCR 7.1.e and was contrary to the safe and orderly conduct of event operations. This presents a significant safety risk.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 9 of the ARA General Competition Rules.



Mark A. Williams, Senior Steward



Mark Everett, Event Steward