



Southern Ohio Forest Rally, 6-8 Jun 2024

DECISION 2

posted at: 27 Jun 2024 16:30

From: the Stewards

Date: 27 Jun 2024

To: Driver and Co-driver of car 136, SOFR Officials, ARA

Time (decision): 12:11

The Stewards, having received reports of competitors refusing to follow the directions of sweep crew, have considered the following matter and determined the following:

Driver, Co-driver, and car No: Enda McCormack, Liam McCormack, Car 136

Date and Time (fact): 7 Jun 2024 12:00 (approx.)

Session: Stage 3 (Top Gun South Short)

Fact: At approximately 6.40 miles into the stage (instruction 29), Car 136 failed to negotiate a turn, drove off the road, and got stuck. The left front corner of the car was down an embankment and the right rear of the car was raised, not in contact with the road surface. The car partially blocked the stage road.

After the stage was complete, sweep vehicles, clearing the road for its next running as Stage 7 (Top Gun South Short 2), came across the incident. The crew of Car 136 refused to allow the Sweep team to pull the car back onto the road so that it could be moved to a safer location. The crew expressed concerns about the Sweep team further damaging the vehicle in the process and asked that their service crew be allowed to enter the stage to evaluate the condition of the car and to move it themselves. This was not allowed and the vehicle remained where it exited the road, blocking much of the road.

In preparation of the next running of the stage road, the Safety Delegate evaluated the scene and determined that the risk was great enough to post a “danger dot” approaching the location to warn competitors. He characterized the Car 136’s crew’s behavior as “unsportsmanlike”.



The crew of Car 136, the Chief of Sweep, and the Safety Delegate were either interviewed by or submitted statements to the Stewards. The Stewards also reviewed in-car video through several turns up to and including where Car 136 was stopped. The Chief of Sweep was a listed official in the event's Supplementary Regulations in the "Organizing Committee" section.

Offence: GCR 5.14, GCR 7.1.f

Decision: The Stewards have decided that the Driver and Co-driver of Car 136 engaged in unsportsmanlike conduct under GCR 5.14.

The Stewards considered but decided against finding that the crew of Car 136 had not obeyed the directions of an Event Official under GCR 7.1.f.

The Stewards have assessed a three-month suspension against both the Driver and Co-driver of Car 136 as well as reprimand them for their actions.

The suspension is suspended for each if that competitor is not assessed any other penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct within 12 months of the posting of this decision. If there is another violation before then, the Stewards ask ARA to pronounce the suspension at that time. Penalties for any additional violations at that time will also be applied.

Reason: With regards to GCR 5.14, the actions of the crew of Car 136 adversely impacted all competitors that ran Stage 7 as well as introduce a safety issue that was mitigated by the Safety Delegate. The competition vehicle was not far off the road and the Sweep team could have quickly made use of the RTR 2.2.9-required rear towing eye to pull the vehicle back on and then flat tow it to a safe location. Instead, when given that choice, the crew of Car 136 opted to have the vehicle left partly blocking the road and in risk of another car hitting it in the second running of the stage road. The Stewards feel that this was a very poor choice and this is reflected in the penalty.

With regards to GCR 7.1.f, although the crew of Car 136 had failed to obey the direction of the Chief of Sweep, that role does not appear in the list of Event Official in GCR 6.1.1. Also, while the person and role was listed in the event's Supplementary Regulations, it was in a section called "Organizing Committee" and nowhere in the Supps was the role listed as an Event Official.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 10 of the ARA General Competition Rules.



Alan Perry, Senior Steward



Michel Hoche-Mong, Event Steward