
Date:	23.04.2022	Time:	19:45 hrs
Subject:	STEWARDS DECISION No. 9	Document No:	2.10

From: The Stewards
To: The Competitor OSAMU FUKUNAGA of car No. 49
Crew OSAMU FUKUNAGA / MISAKO SAIDA

The Stewards, having received two reports from the FIA Deputy Technical Delegate with documentary evidence attached, summoned the representative of the above competitor, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

Facts - After retiring on Friday 22nd April, car No. 49 was not brought to the parc fermé but straight to its service bay where the repair work started in the evening without the checking-in to service or the beginning of such service having been noted by any rally official or marshal.

- During the scrutineering checks of the cars that had retired on Friday and were re-starting on Saturday, car No. 49 was found with a pop-off valve not registered by the FIA Technical Delegate and without any sealing.
The FIA Technical Delegate had not been informed that the sealing of the pop-off valve or the valve itself on car No. 49 were damaged.

Offence Breach of:

- Art. 55.1.1 of the 2022 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations
- Art. 16 and 16.2.7 of the 2022 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations in conjunction with Art. 261-304-2 of Appendix J to the 2022 FIA International Sporting Code

Decision **A reprimand on competitor of car No. 49 and a fine of € 1000**

In accordance with Art. 12.8 of the 2022 FIA International Sporting Code, fines shall be paid within 48 hours of their notification. Any delay in making payment may entail Suspension during the period a fine remains unpaid.

Reason A hearing was held on Saturday, 23rd April 2022 at 11.20 hrs in the presence of the team representative of crew No. 49, Mr. Janoš Puškadi. The team representative stated that, after the retirement on Friday of car No. 49 due to an accident on SS 1, the car was towed directly to the service bay. Due to a misunderstanding and language issues, the co-driver did not inform neither the marshals nor the scrutineers before the mechanics started servicing the car. As the front of the car was badly damaged, all parts were removed by the mechanics, also the FIA sealing of the pop-off valve and the team forgot to ask the FIA Technical Delegate for prior authorization.

At 21.50 hrs the FIA Deputy Technical Delegate noticed that the car was in its service bay with the mechanics working on it. He also noticed that the beginning of service was not noted by any rally officials and then he immediately asked the team to stop working.

They then asked to get the time marked by a rally official and they could continue working on the car from 22.10 hrs. The check-in time at the overnight parc fermé was at 00.59 on Saturday 23rd April 2022. Even though not provided with any clear evidence, the Stewards nevertheless assumed to the benefit of the competitor that the total permitted service time of 3 hours was not exceeded.

Art. 55.1.1 of the 2022 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations stipulates that the car may be removed once for service at any time from the parc fermé for a maximum of 3 hours.

Art. 16 of the 2022 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations mandates that after pre-rally scrutineering any change of a sealed component must be notified by the competitor and the notification must be received prior to the change of that part. Furthermore, as stated in Art. 16.2.7, the component must remain sealed until the end of the rally except with approval from the FIA Technical Delegate. The crew, however, replaced the registered and sealed pop-off-valve with a new one during the above-mentioned service without complying with these requirements.

In taking their decision, the Stewards also considered that the crew of car No. 49 is doing their first event in the WRC.

Due to the special circumstances in this case, this decision shall not be used as a precedent for any future Stewards' decisions related to a similar breach.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 15 of the 2022 FIA International Sporting Code and Chapter 4 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules.



Edoardo Delleani
The Stewards



Tanja Geilhausen



Sanjin Paro

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

<i>Name (in block letters):</i>	JANOŠ PUŠKADI	<i>Date:</i>	23.04.2022
<i>Position within the team:</i>	TEAM REPRESENTATIVE	<i>Time:</i>	19:50

Published on the Organiser's Digital Notice Board on 23/04/22 at 20.45 hrs.