



## 2022 Rally in the 100 Acre Wood, 18-19 March 2022

### DECISION 2

posted at: 4 Apr 2022 16:00 CDT

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**From:** The Stewards

**Date:** 2 Apr 2022

**To:** Driver and Co-driver of Car 235

**Time (decision):** 13:30 CDT

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The Stewards, having received a report from the ARA Competition Director, compiled from RallySafe data and statements from competitors and officials, concerning the actions of cars 50, 235, 527, and 991 on Stage 10, have considered the following matter and determined the following:

**Driver, Co-driver, car No:** Mark Rokus, Tabitha Lohr, 235

**Time (fact):** 19 Mar 2022 16:29 CDT

**Stage:** 10

**Fact:** At 2.2 miles into the stage, Car 50 left the stage road and got stuck. The crew displayed OK as two cars passed them. The third car on the scene, Car 991 did not see the OK sign and stopped to check on Car 50. Due to miscommunication, Car 991 initially thought it was a SOS situation and communicated this to the following vehicle, Car 235. Thinking it was a medical SOS, Car 235 proceeded to the next radio point. After Car 235 left, Car 991 figured out that Car 50 just needed assistance getting back onto the stage road. Car 235 approached the spectator point at mile 4.4 and stopped to find a radio marshal. While stopped, Car 235 was struck by Car 527, which was unaware of any SOS and was traveling the stage at speed. After the impact, both cars proceeded down the stage road. At approx. mile 6, Car 235 stopped at a radio marshal to report the incident at mile 2.2. At about the same time, the stage was stopped for other reasons.

The reports given by Cars 991 and 235 differ on the exchange between them. Car 235 believed that the situation was a medical SOS. They triggered a manual SOS but did not confirm it, so it was cleared once they started moving. As they proceeded to the next radio point, the RallySafe unit in the car did not indicate that the stage had been stopped.

At the spectator point at mile 4.4, Car 235 stopped to look for a radio marshal. The co-driver unbuckled and was starting to exit the car when the driver reversed the car back towards the corner. The car was then struck in the rear by Car 527. After the impact, Car 235 pulled forward and Car 527 drove past them and down the stage. After about 30 seconds, Car 235 continued down the stage road without continuing to look for a radio marshal there.

At approximately mile 6, many cars were stopped with mechanical problems and car 235 stopped there to look for a radio marshal. They reported the SOS at mile 2.2, but before that could be communicated to Net Control, a SOS situation involving other cars took place at the scene and the stage was stopped.

**Offence:** Failure to follow the Safety Protocol in RCR 5.13.2, which is also discussed in the Novice Briefing. Additionally, it appears that they are not fully aware of the notification they would have received via RallySafe if the stage had been declared cancelled due to an SOS.

**Decision:** The driver and co-driver of Car 235 must attend the Novice Briefing for their next two events otherwise each will not be allowed to start the event.

**Reason:** The crew of Car 235 made several poor decisions and failed to follow the Safety Protocol in RCR 5.13.2

At mile 2.2, despite believing that the situation was a medical SOS, they did not discuss the nature of the SOS with car 991 or collect information on the situation before proceeding to the next radio point.

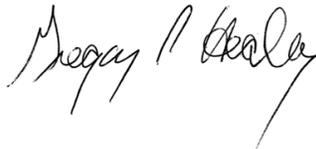
After stopping at the spectator point at mile 4.4 to find a radio marshal, the driver reversed the car on the stage road despite the car being around a blind corner and the co-driver not wearing her safety harnesses. Even if the stage had been stopped as they believed, there was a risk of collision from a sweep vehicle or ambulance traveling on the stage road. After the collision with Car 527, they made no effort to even ask the spectators whether there was a radio marshal at that location.

These decisions put others at risk and created the opportunity for the co-driver to be injured.

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



Greg Healey, Event Steward