

# Rally Dakar 2022

30. December 2021 - 14. January 2022



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Date: **Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Time: **16.30 hrs**

Subject: **STEWARDS DECISION N° 65**

Document No: **2.71**

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From: *The Stewards*

To: The Competitor car no **208 - VRT**

Crew: **VLADIMIR VASILYEV – OLEG UPERENKO**

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*Number of pages: 1*

*Attachments: 0*

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The Stewards, having received the report N°19 (Doc. n° 6.19) from the FIA Technical Delegate, having examined the document, have considered the following matter, determine the following:

**Fact:** During a routine check after Leg 4, the intercom system of car # 208 was found with a Bluetooth function for Mobile phone connection integrated.

**Offence:** Breach of Art. 9.1.2 of the 2022 Cross Country Rally Sporting Regulations.  
Breach of Art. 9.1.9 of the 2022 Cross Country Rally Sporting Regulations (V1)

**Decision:** **5 minutes time penalty applied in leg 6**

**Disqualification from Rally Dakar 2022**, which is suspended until the end of Rally Dakar 2022 subject to no further breach of similar nature committed by the competitor during this period.

**Reason:** The Team Manager Alex Kulikov declared that they bought the Intercom System in Russia, where he could not find an Intercom System without Bluetooth (the other available system had also a SIM card integrated). He also declared that the crew is not using the Bluetooth connection, and that in his opinion it's impossible to use the device to connect the helmets with the cell phone, which is sealed inside a carbon fibre box. He declared that they didn't open the box of the Intercom system until now, when they have removed the Bluetooth chip from the board.

*According to Art. 9.1.2 of the 2022 CCRSR, Bluetooth and similar, including all forms of data transmission, are prohibited. According to Art. 9.1.9 of the 2022 CCR SR V1, during the Selective Sections, no transmission (from or to the Vehicle) of SMS, MMS or data is authorised, all equipment (data cables, infrared links, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi or other) is prohibited.*

Due to the nature of the competition, especially the difficult navigation in the Selective Section, all communication between the crews themselves and between the crews and outsiders must be prevented. Information that could influence the competition must not reach the crews.

The competitor cannot claim that they were not aware that the Stilo DG-10 model has a Bluetooth connection, as it is clearly seen "Bluetooth" on the Intercom box. Therefore, the competitor could have opened the unit to check and remove the Bluetooth chip. This means that, regardless of the crew was using the Bluetooth connection or not to link their phone inside the box, the fact of having a device with Bluetooth capabilities constitutes already a breach of the regulations.

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According to Art. 12.1.2 of the Code offences or infringements are punishable, whether they were committed intentionally or through negligence. In case of a breach of the obligation of compliance with the regulations, a competitor's responsibility is causal. A sanction must be pronounced against it even in the absence of fault.

The Stewards conclude that, in view of the provisions of the relevant regulations, it was up to the Competitor to ensure that the Bluetooth chip was removed from the intercom box. Even in the case that it was impossible to find an Intercom without Bluetooth in Russia, it is always possible to remove the chip from the card.

The decision is based on the FIA International Sporting Code Art. 11.9.1, Art. 11.9.3 f; Art. 11.9.3.g, Art. 12.3.1, Art. 12.4.1.h., Art. 12.4.1.m, Art. 12.9.1 and Art. 12.4.6.

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

**Uwe M. SCHMIDT**  
FIA Chairman of the Stewards

**Jordi PARRO**  
FIA Steward

**Ahmad JAN**  
ASN Steward

This decision was notified via SPORTITY to the competitor representative as below:

<i>Name in block letters</i>	<b>Alex Kulikov</b>	Date	<b>08.01.2022</b>
<i>Position in the team</i>	<b>Team Manager</b>	Time	<b>17.00 hrs</b>

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