

Rally Dakar 2022

30. December 2021 - 14. January 2022



Date: **Tuesday, 8th January 2022**

Time: **16.30 hrs**

Subject: **STEWARDS DECISION N° 66**

Document No: **2.72**

From: *The Stewards*

To: **The Competitor car no 301 – RED BULL OFF-ROAD JR TEAM**

Crew: **Cristina Gutierrez Herrero – François Cazalet**

Number of pages: 2

Attachments: 0

The Stewards, having received the report N°20 (Doc. n° 6.20) 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 # 301 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: Reprimand to competitor

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 declared that they requested a modified version of the Stilo DG10 digital intercom device with the “offshore” hardware capability to resist extreme conditions and without Bluetooth module. This prototype version is sealed in order to keep away water and dust from inside the module. The manufacturer requested to the competitor not to open the intercom to avoid damages to the sealing. The competitor has submitted an email to the Stewards from 7th December with the answer of Stilo where they confirm this features of the prototype intercoms.

Nevertheless, the Stilo Intercom has been supplied by the manufacturer with the Bluetooth module. Stilo has recognised his mistake in another letter signed on January 8th 2022.

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.

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 a breach of the regulations.

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The manufacturer declared that the intercom prototype purchased by the competitor was supplied Bluetooth not installed from the beginning, that's why there is no need to deactivate it. Since the manufacturer sealed the box and thus prevented the team to open it to avoid water and dust inside the module, it was impossible for the competitor to know if there was a Bluetooth module or not.

According to Art. 12.1.2 of the Code offences or infringements are punishable, whether they were committed intentionally or through negligence.

The Stewards finally conclude that there is a breach of the regulations and that a reprimand and the suspended sentence of disqualification is necessary but sufficient for the reasons set out here.

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:

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|-------------------|
| <i>Name in block letters</i> | Cristina Gutierrez Herrero | Date | 08.01.2022 |
| <i>Position in the team</i> | Driver | Time | 16.45 hrs |

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