

Rally Dakar 2022

30. December 2021 - 14. January 2022



Date: **Wednesday, 5th January 2022**

Time: **20.45 hrs**

Subject: **STEWARDS DECISION N° 14**

Document No: **2.17**

From: *The Stewards*

To: The Competitor car no **207 - TOYOTA GAZOO RACING**
Crew: **Giniel DE VILLIERS / Dennis MURPHY**

Number of pages: 2

Attachments: 0

The Stewards, having received a report (Incident Report N° 2), photos, tracking system report and an ERTF report from the FIM Jury, having heard the competitor's representative, have considered the following matter, determine the following:

Fact: Car N° 207 in Selective Section 2 at about 11.00 hrs, after coming over a dune, they ran over a motorbike that was behind the dune.

Offence: according to the FIA International Sporting Code Art. 12.2.1.h (creating an unsafe situation)

Decision: **5 hours time penalty on Leg 2**

Reason: The competitor was summoned to give him the opportunity of presenting his defence. The representative, Mr. de Villiers, explained: We have not heard any alarm signal from Sentinel. We do not doubt that we have received a signal. The problem is that the button for the Sentinel is located on the floor of the co-driver's side. During the Selective Section, the co-driver's feet jump back and forth and can easily, accidentally press the button. When we came over the dune, we saw the motorcyclist and I avoided him so as not to hurt him. At the bottom of the dune, we turned around to make sure that the rider was not injured. We didn't feel hitting the bike when we landed. Then we continued the Selective Section. We are very embarrassed that something like this happens. We apologise very much for this incident. We are also willing to compensate the cost to rebuild the bike.

Fortunately, the rider was not any more near his Motorbike and he suffered no injuries. However, the Motorbike is destroyed.

This evening, Mr de Villiers met with the rider at the FIM Jury office and reached an agreement that Mr de Villiers will cover the cost of the replacement of the destroyed motorbike. In addition, Mr de Villiers will pay the entry fee for the 2023 Dakar Rally to the rider. The rider stated that he is very satisfied with this arrangement.

The Sentinel (car-to-car communication system) is essential for the driver's safety and for the safety of all other competitors in Rally Dakar. Safety is one of the major concerns by the FIA. Safety remains a key challenge and the FIA is committed to do everything possible to protect, among others, the drivers. It is the obligation of the crew to react to the signal of the Sentinel System to avoid danger to themselves and others.

The Stewards consider the behaviour of the crew as an infringement of the regulation which must have consequences. Since Mr. de Villiers has voluntarily contacted the rider, apologised, and will pay for the damage caused, the stewards consider a time penalty to be necessary but also appropriate.

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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.

According to Art 12.3.3.b of the FIA International Sporting Code, the decision of the stewards becomes immediately binding even in the event of an appeal, since it concerns a breach of Article 12.2.

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>	Jean-Marc Fortin	Date	05.01.2022
<i>Position in the team</i>	Team Representative	Time	21.15 hrs

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