
Date:	08.09.2024	Time:	18:10 hrs
Subject:	STEWARDS DECISION No. 19	Document No:	2.20

From: The Stewards
To: The Competitor TOYOTA GAZOO RACING WRT of car No. 17
Crew SÉBASTIEN OGIER / VINCENT LANDAIS

All Competitors / crew members

The Stewards, having become aware, through the live broadcast on Rally.tv, about a statement by the driver of car No. 17 at the end of SS1, summoned the driver, as well as a competitor's representative, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

Facts The driver of car No. 17, Sébastien Ogier, during the interview at the end of SS1, issued the following statement:
"It is annoying to see that the sport never learns. We ask, we know that we are going to have dust. There is hanging dust. Oh, they say no. What do you have in your head? Nothing. It's crazy."

Offence Breach of Article 12.2.1.f of the 2024 FIA International Sporting Code in conjunction with the Driver Declarations and Undertakings signed by Mr. Sébastien Ogier.

Decision **Fine of € 30,000.00 on driver of car No. 17 SÉBASTIEN OGIER**, which is **suspended for a period of 2 years** (expiration date 8th September 2026 included), subject to no further breach by Mr. Sébastien Ogier of the above-mentioned article of the FIA International Sporting Code and/or any article mentioned in the Driver Declarations and Undertakings signed by Mr. Sébastien Ogier, committed within the framework of a competition of the FIA World Rally Championship.

Reason A hearing was held on Saturday 7th September 2024 at 23.00 hrs in the presence of the driver Sébastien Ogier and Mr. Kaj Lindström, Sporting Director.

During the hearing the driver explained that his statement was made in the heat of the moment and because it was related to a safety issue regarding the dust through the special stage.

He apologised for his words, stating that they were not addressed to anyone specifically.

He also added that he knows very well that nowadays there is a special focus on wording used in the motorsport and on social media in general.

Mr. Kaj Lindström asked the Stewards to take in consideration that Mr. Ogier made another statement on Rally.tv at the end of SS2, thanking for increasing the gap between P1 competing cars from SS2.

Furthermore, he added that he had asked, before the start of the rally and through the main Officials, for the possibility to have a four-minute gap instead of three.

The Stewards considered that Mr. Ogier's statement, even if it was not addressed to anyone in particular, is directly prejudicial to the FIA and its officials, as well as the local officials and hundreds of volunteers who are working on the rally, all in the interest of safety of spectators, competitors and officials.

Motorsport events are organised with a very well-known structure to support teams and drivers. The way how to address their requests or issues or claims is well defined by clear procedures.

Even if Mr. Ogier made a statement related to a safety issue, this cannot be taken into consideration as a mitigating circumstance.

All people are free to express their thoughts, but they must always be careful not to incur in general offences or deeds contrary to the interest of the sport.

All statements made through live TV and/or social media in general, are shown to millions of spectators around the world.

It should be noted that all famous drivers are followed by many people and by other young drivers as well.

Mr. Ogier is an eight time World Rally Champion and has hundred-thousands of fans around the world.

Furthermore, as a driver in the Championship, Mr. Ogier has signed the "Driver Declaration and Undertakings" required by Art. 30.2 of the 2024 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations, which state among others:

"17. I undertake that I shall:

17.2 Refrain from any public declaration or comment in any form which may harm, weaken or put into disrepute the goodwill, fame, name and/or image of the Championship and the FIA and/or any of the Associated Bodies;

17.3 At all times use my best endeavours to promote and encourage support for the Championship and motor sports generally; "

All those involved in FIA activities must expect to be treated in a fair manner, with respect, dignity and consideration, in the spirit of valuing diverse views and opinions. Discussing differences and critiquing ideas should be done in a non-confrontational manner with due regard for the viewpoints of others.

Many people see famous athletes as an example and recent investigations have shown that there is a direct link between negative comments from drivers and increased hate directed towards officials.

For this reason, in 2023 the FIA launched the campaign "United Against Online Abuse" underscoring the determination to preserve the sporting environment as a welcoming and respectful community for all.

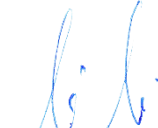
The Stewards considered that the nature of the breach committed by Mr. Ogier is serious, and in case of words that cause injury on the general interest of motor sports and on the values defended by the FIA, the penalty applied is appropriate following the FIA criteria.

All competitors are advised that the suspension of the fine applied in this case is in consideration of this being the first application of the above-mentioned criteria in the FIA World Rally Championship and not only for the apologies made in front of the Stewards during the hearing.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 15 of the 2024 FIA International Sporting Code and Chapter 4 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules.



Edoardo Delleani
The Stewards



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Yiannis Kantas

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

<i>Name (in block letters):</i>	KAJ LINDSTRÖM	<i>Date:</i>	8.9.2024
<i>Position within the team:</i>	SPORTING DIRECTOR	<i>Time:</i>	18:15

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