
Date: 21.08.2022 **Time:** 19.50 hrs
Subject: STEWARDS DECISION No. 17 **Document No:** 2.19

From: The Stewards
To: The Competitor STÉPHANE LEFEBVRE of car No. 24
Crew STÉPHANE LEFEBVRE / ANDY MALFOY
and
The Competitor TOKSPORT WRT of car No. 20
Crew ANDREAS MIKKELSEN / TORSTEIN ERIKSEN

PROTEST lodged by

The Competitor of car No. 20 TOKSPORT WRT (Driver Andreas Mikkelsen, Co-Driver Torstein Eriksen)

Against

The Competitor of car No. 24 STÉPHANE LEFEBVRE (Driver Stéphane Lefebvre, Co-Driver Andy Malfoy)

Procedure:

1. On Sunday 21st August 2022, the Clerk of the Course received at 12.55 hrs a protest lodged by the Competitor of car No. 20 addressed to the Chairperson of the Stewards of ARDECA YPRES RALLY BELGIUM 2022.
2. Competitor No. 20 claimed in its protest that Competitor No. 24 was in breach of Art. 19.2 of the 2022 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations during SS11.
A reminder on the importance of this Article had also been the subject of Communication No. 6 issued by the Clerk of the Course and circulated to all competitors.
3. Video evidence was submitted with the protest.
4. Both parties were summoned and heard together by the Stewards. The following persons were present at the hearing:

On behalf of Competitor No. 20:	Andreas Mikkelsen	Driver
	Torstein Eriksen	Co-Driver
	Jacek Wryzykowski	Team Manager
	Bernt Kollevold	Team Co-ordinator

On behalf of Competitor No. 24:	Stéphane Lefebvre	Driver
	Andy Malfoy	Co-Driver
	Luc Manset	Team Manager
	Jérémy Chevallereu	Engineer

The hearing was held on Sunday 21st August 2022 at 16:55 hrs in the Stewards' Room with all Stewards present.

The hearing was also attended by Ms. Yvonne Gilli, FIA WRC Stewards Secretary.

5. No objections were raised against the composition of the Stewards panel.

6. At the hearing the parties referred to the documents previously submitted. None of the parties submitted further evidence nor initiated the hearing of additional persons or asked to conduct further investigations.

On the Admissibility:

7. The Stewards examined the admissibility of the protest:
 - 7.1 The protest was lodged in due time, in accordance with Art. 13.3 of the 2022 FIA International Sporting Code (time of publication of the Provisional Classification: 18.00 hrs on Sunday 21st August 2022).
 - 7.2 The protest was lodged by a single competitor against a single competitor as stipulated in the 2022 FIA International Sporting Code Art. 13.1.1 to 13.1.3 and Art. 13.7.
 - 7.3 The subject of the protest was against an alleged breach of the regulations during the competition, as stipulated in the 2022 FIA International Sporting Code Art. 13.2.1 and Art. 13.4.1.
The article mentioned by the protester was Art.19.2 of the 2022 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations.
 - 7.4 The Stewards spotted an error in the protest document, i.e. the name of the co-driver of car No. 24 was not correct. Competitor No. 20 had mentioned the co-driver showed in the first Entry List published.
Two Amended Entry Lists were issued (the first one on 17.08.2022 and the second one on 18.08.2022).
The Steward considered this mistake as a clerical error. The parties agreed.
 - 7.5 The protest was properly accompanied by the protest deposit of € 1000, as stipulated in Art. 13.4.2 of the 2022 FIA International Sporting Code, Art. 65.2 of the 2022 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations and in Art. 15.2 of the event Supplementary Regulations.
8. The Stewards find that the protest is admissible and that the requirements of the Code have been complied with.

Hearing of the Parties:

9. The Chairperson of the Stewards proposed to discuss the two protests during the same hearing, as the subject and the parties involved were the same.
All parties agreed.
10. The Stewards asked to the Protester to explain the reasons of his protest.
11. According to the Team Manager Mr. Jacek Wryzkowski from Toksport WRT, Competitor No. 24 has not respected Article 19.2 of the 2022 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations. He further noted that all competitors were reminded of this in Clerk of the Course Communication No. 6 before the event. As they then received the videos, as submitted together with the protest, they decided to protest.
12. The representative of Competitor No. 24, Engineer Jérémy Chevallereau, argued that the crew has kept two wheels on the road during SS 11.

13. At this point, the Team Representative of Competitor No. 20, Mr. Bernt Kollevold, commented that he is the person who has taken the videos submitted together with the protest. He had filmed all cars of the P1 drivers and said that they had all followed the defined roadway with at least two wheels on tarmac. He also noted that, as can be seen from the video of Car 24, they were completely off the tarmac with all four wheels.
14. The video evidence submitted by the protester was showed to all parties.
15. Nobody raised exception regarding the video submitted as evidence.
16. Mr. Chevallereau wanted to add that in the short time he had after the Summons, he had watched most of the onboard available on WRC+, and he thinks that almost all drivers have taken a similar line to Car 24, noting further that P2 drivers have been more inside than P1 drivers.
17. Mr. Wryzykowski noted that it is very difficult to define from an onboard video where the car is exactly on the road.
18. At this point, the Chairman wanted to ask all those present if they would agree that on SS 15 car No. 24 was much further away from the defined roadway as on SS 11. All those present agreed.
19. However, the driver of Car 24 stated that, for safety reasons, he had taken the right line as all other crews had done before him during SS 15.
Mr. Lefebvre repeated that in his opinion this was the only safe line to take on his passage on SS15.
20. At the end of the hearing, Mr. Wryzykowski wanted to add that they had read Communication No. 6 and had acted accordingly.
21. The Chairman noted that when discussing what is the defined roadway, in tarmac rallies it should clearly be the tarmac part of the road.

After the hearing was closed by the Chairman at 17h25, the Stewards took the following decision after due deliberation.

Offence:

- 22. Competitor No. 24 breached 2022 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations Art. 19.2.**

Decision:

- 23. The protest is admissible.**
- 24. The protest is upheld.**
- 25. To apply a Time Penalty of 5 seconds on Competitor No. 24, to be added on his time recorded on SS11.**
- 26. The protest fee to be returned to Competitor No. 20.**

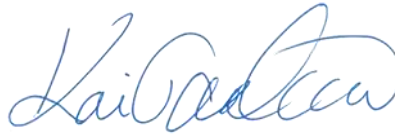
Reasons

27. As stipulated in Art. 19.2 of 2022 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations, the compulsory itinerary of the rally is defined in the Road Book by the road direction diagrams and between the road direction diagrams (as per this case), by the defined roadway.
28. The corner mentioned in the protest is located at Km 12 of SS11, between box 15 and box 16 of the Road Book (pages 132-133).
29. The FIA Sporting Delegate, Mr. Timo Rautiainen, discussed on possible corner-cutting before the event, as the question had been raised by one of the Manufacturers. Mr. Rautiainen strongly suggested to the organizer that some preventive measures should be taken, especially in the two very obvious locations brought forward by the team. The organizer refused to take any measures, due to the large number of possible locations and lack of suitable material at such short notice, as the matter was only raised by the team after reconnaissance.
30. The corner which was shown in the video material submitted together with the two protests is one of the two locations especially discussed between Mr. Rautiainen and the organizer.
31. From the Stewards' point of view, the corner in question is a very typical place where time can be gained if the defined roadway, as stipulated in Art. 19.2 of 2022 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations, is not used. After the tarmac edge, the road broadens to a mixture of concrete and gravel.
32. From the video evidence submitted with the protest, it can be seen that cars No. 20 and No. 24 took different lines through the corner.
33. Further on, there are fields with different level of the road with no ditch between them. It is clearly visible in the video footage submitted by competitor No. 20, that car No. 24 made a little leap on the tarmac limit on the corner.
34. The Stewards also checked the on-board camera available on WRC+, which confirmed that the video provided by Competitor No. 20 was taken during the 2022 Ardeca Ypres Rally Belgium at Km 12 of SS11.
35. All the video evidence confirmed that corner-cutting was done by car No. 24 on SS11.
36. With a view to sporting fairness in competitions, the Stewards may exercise their authority under Art. 11.9.2.a, 11.9.3.f and 11.9.3.j of the 2022 FIA International Sporting Code.
37. The Stewards therefore concurred that the corner-cutting at that place was a breach of 2022 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations Art. 19.2 as on tarmac surface events the roadway is clearly defined.
38. Following the precedents for the same offences, the Stewards decided to impose the above-mentioned time penalty.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 15 of the 2022 FIA International Sporting Code and Chapter 4 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules.



Edoardo Delleani
The Stewards



Kai Tarkiainen



François Dumont

This decision was notified by email to the Competitors' officially nominated representative as below:

COMPETITOR No 24

<i>Name (in block letters):</i>	LUC MANSET	<i>Date:</i>	21.08.2022
<i>Position within the team:</i>	TEAM CO-ORDINATOR	<i>Time:</i>	19:55

COMPETITOR No. 20

<i>Name (in block letters):</i>	JACEK WRYZYKOWSKI	<i>Date:</i>	21.08.2022
<i>Position within the team:</i>	TEAM MANGER	<i>Time:</i>	19:57

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