



84^e RALLYE MONTE CARLO
18 – 24 Janvier 2016



Date : 24th January 2016

Time : 00.40 hrs

Subject : STEWARDS DECISION No: 6

Document No: 2.7

From : The Stewards

To : The Competitor of car No. 2 VOLKSWAGEN MOTORSPORT
Crew JARI-MATTI LATVALA / MIKKA ANTILA

The Stewards became aware of an incident that had occurred on SS 11 on Saturday 23rd January 2016. following various publications in the media, an information received from the Clerk of the Course and an information received by the WRC-TV stage end reporter Julian Porter through the WRC Promoter's representative Simon Larkin.

Video evidence provided by WRC-TV showed that car No. 2 went off the road on SS 11 and hit a spectator before rejoining the road and continuing to the end of the stage. At some distance behind the special stage finish, the crew stopped to fix the car. A TV crew arrived at the venue and spoke to the team. Mr. Julian Porter, WRC-TV stage end reporter, submitted to the Stewards through Mr. Simon Larkin the following written statement on what Jari-Matti Latvala had said on that occasion: "*Both driver and co driver of the number 2 Polo were working on the front left suspension when Jari-Matti called me over to tell me something. Jari said to me that 'when we went off we hit a spectator, we did not hit him hard but can you please check he is ok' and could I get in touch with somebody who could do this.*"

The Stewards then summoned the driver Jari-Matti Latvala and the co-driver Mikka Anttila as well as a competitor's representative for a hearing that was conducted on Saturday 23rd January 2016 at 22.15 hrs and attended by the driver and the co-driver as well as by the Team Principal, Mr. Jost Capito, and the Team Manager, Mr. Sven Smeets.

Upon request, Jari-Matti Latvala first of all apologized for what had happened. He then explained the circumstances which resulted in him going off at that place. When going off the road, he crossed a kind of water channel and the water boosting up obstructed his view. It was only when the visibility came back that he saw some people jumping to the side and at the same time he saw the possibility where he could get back onto the road. He added that he never thought having hit someone.

He then stated: "I was informed that I hit a spectator".

Upon being questioned who informed him and when he was informed that he had hit a spectator, he could not reply precisely.

He added that he was fully focused on getting back to the road.

The Stewards then presented to the drivers and to the competitor's representatives the written statement made by Mr. Julian Porter.

After reading, Jari-Matti Latvala said that these were not exactly the words he had said. He claimed having said: "*Can you go and confirm with the marshals that I haven't hit anybody.*" The reason was that after having cooled down at the end of the stage he felt that there might have been an impact with a spectator.

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Video evidence from the on-board camera in car No. 2 was then viewed. The Stewards stated that, looking at the images, it would be hard to believe that the driver and/or co-driver had not realised that they had hit a spectator as the body could be seen quite prominently on the bonnet and right in front of the windscreen. At that moment the visibility through the windscreen on the driver's side was not so bad and the body could be seen clearly. Jari-Matti Latvala replied that there is also a head movement up and down in such a situation so that the view is not completely directed into a straight position.

After considering all elements of the above evidence, the Stewards conclude the following. It is not plausible for the Stewards that the crew did not even consider the possibility that they had hit a spectator. It must be added that, as can be seen from the video footage, there were many people standing closely in a large row on the left side of the special stage where the crew went off. Also, when the car was on its way to rejoin the stage, people were running away to the left and to the right. In such a situation, it would have been the obligation of the crew to stop at the venue of the incident and check if a spectator was affected and whether the procedures as laid down in Article 40.4 of the FIA WRC Sporting Regulations should be applied.

The Stewards finally conclude that a breach of Article 40.4, in conjunction with Article 40.3, of the 2016 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations and of Article 12.1.1.c of the 2016 FIA International Sporting Code has been committed and, after due deliberation,

DECIDE

- To levy a Fine of € 5,000 jointly onto the driver JARI-MATTI LATVALA and the co-driver MIKKA ANTILA
- To pass onto the driver JARI-MATTI LATVALA a sentence of suspension for one World Rally Championship rally in 2016, which is applied with suspension of sentence throughout the 2016 FIA World Rally Championship and will come immediately into effect should the driver Jari-Matti Latvala commit again a similar infringement of WRC Article 40 (Competitor Safety) in a WRC rally of the current season.

The Competitor is reminded of its right to appeal.

Waltraud Wünsch
Chairperson

Stewards

Christian Leca

Christian Calmes



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Re: Stewards Decision No. 6 - 84^e RALLYE MONTE-CARLO 2016

Received by :

Name : *SM EGIS*

Competitor : VOLKSWAGEN MOTORSPORT

Car No : 2

Date : 24/01/2016

Time : *00.54*

Signature :

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