
Date: **Tuesday, 27th February 2024**

Time: **18.00 hrs**

Subject: **STEWARDS DECISION N° 1**

Document No: **2.3**

From: *The Stewards*

To: **TEAM AUDI SPORT**

FIA 2024 World Rally-Raid Championship registered Manufacturer

Number of pages: 3

Attachments: 0

The Stewards, having received a report from the FIA Sporting Delegate (email, 25 February 2024), examined the information included in the report, having heard the Manufacturer representatives Mr. Sven Quandt and Mr. Thomas Quandt, having considered the matter, determine the following:

Fact: Team AUDI SPORT has duly registered in the 2024 FIA World Rally-Raid Championship for Manufacturers and was not represented by any car on the entry list of the second round, ABU DHABI DESERT CHALLENGE 2024.

Offence: Breach of Article V1 3.4.3 of the 2024 FIA Cross-Country Rally Sporting Regulations

Decision: **To impose a fine penalty of 750,000 EUR on the Manufacturer TEAM AUDI SPORT of which the amount of 562,500 EUR is applied with suspension of sentence subject to no further similar infringement during the 2024 FIA World Rally-Raid Championship.**

In accordance with Article 12.8 FIA International Sporting Code, the payment of the fines must be done online, within 48 hours of their notification, at the following address: <https://fiafines.fia.com> or by means of any mode of payment. Any delay in making payment may entail Suspension during the period a fine remains unpaid.

Reason: On 13.12.2023 Team AUDI SPORT, represented by Managing Director Mr. Thomas Quandt, signed a registration form for 2024 FIA World Rally-Raid Championship for Manufacturers according to which they confirmed: *«we have read and understood the provisions of the International Sporting Code, the Technical regulations applicable to the group of cars scoring point to the 2024 FIA World Rally-Raid Championship, the 2024 FIA Cross-Country Rally Sporting Regulations and the 2024 FIA World Rally-Raid Championship Sporting Regulations. We agree to be bound by them (as supplemented or amended) and furthermore we agree on our own behalf and on behalf of everyone associated with our participation in the 2024 FIA World Rally-Raid Championship to observe them».*

On 7 February 2024, prior to the closing date for entries for 2024 Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge, the FIA Road Sport Department sent a communication to all four



K. Beitz





Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge 2024

25th Feb – 02nd Mar 2024



Manufacturers entered the 2024 FIA World Rally-Raid Championship reminding them to nominate all crews scoring points before the entry closing date. No response was received from Team Audi Sport in particular.

On 23 February 2024 Jerome Roussel, FIA Category Manager for Cross-Country & Regional Rally Championship, received a letter from Sven Quandt, Q Motorsport, stating that due to problems with spare parts supply and according to press released by Audi Sport, the team will not participate in the W2RC 2024.

During the hearing the Manufacturer representatives stated that they were not able to participate at the second round of the W2RC due to a lack of spare parts for their vehicles. They said that these spare parts are produced by special order with long lead times.

Stewards also acknowledge the important quotations that were outlined in Audi's press release issued on 13 Feb 2024 (while ADDC entry closing date was on 10 Feb 2024) and containing the following statements:

- «The overall victory of Carlos Sainz and Lucas Cruz at the Dakar Rally on January 19, 2024 concludes Audi's rally raid program.»
- «Audi is ending the rally project as planned after its third participation in the Dakar Rally, and the consideration of a possible participation in the 2024 World Rally Raid Championship has been rejected.»

<https://www.audi-mediacycenter.com/en/newsflash/successful-conclusion-15866>

In addition, Mr. Sven Quandt confirmed that Team Audi Sport is not going to participate in the next round of the current Championship as newly appointed CEO of Audi AG rejected the Rally-Raid program for 2024.

With the registration to the W2RC as Manufacturer, TEAM AUDI SPORT signed to comply and follow all provisions of the Code and any supplements or amendments of the Code, the current Cross-Country Rally Sporting Regulations and the Supplementary Regulations of each event. For the purposes of the Cross-Country Rally Sporting Regulations, a registered Manufacturer is a Championship participant in accordance with Art. 1.3 of the International Sporting Code, and as such must adhere to the obligations imposed on them and abide by the decisions of the sporting authority.

A registered Manufacturer shall be deemed to be acquainted with the statutes and regulations of the FIA and the national regulations and shall undertake to submit themselves without reserve to the above and to the decisions of the sporting authority and to the consequences resulting therefrom.

Moreover, Team Audi Sport is leading the current FIA World Rally-Raid Championship for Manufacturers with only 4 Manufacturers entered and absence on the next round of the Championship harms the image of the FIA World Rally-Raid Championship and competition at 2024 FIA World Rally-Raid Championship – Manufacturers

According to Art V1 3.4.3 of the 2024 FIA Cross-Country Rally Sporting Regulations, a Manufacturer undertakes to participate in **all the Rallies of the Championship** with at least one vehicle of Groups Ultimate, Stock, Challenger or SSV complying with the technical regulations in force.

The Stewards came to the conclusion that the failure to enter and to participate in ADDC 2024 is a serious breach of the terms of the registration agreement and of the FIA Cross-Country Rally Sporting Regulations.

According to Art. 11.9.2.b of the FIA International Sporting Code, the Stewards may rule on any breach of the applicable regulations which occurred outside the framework of any event, provided that the event for which they are appointed immediately follows the discovery of this alleged breach.

The Stewards decision is based on the 2024 FIA International Sporting Code Art. 11.9.1, Art. 11.9.3 f, Art. 12.3.1, Art. 12.4.1.c, Art.12.4.5, Art. 12.6.

The Manufacturer / Competitor is reminded that he has 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.



Dimitry MAKHENYA
FIA Chairperson of the Stewards



Kostyantyn BEVZ
FIA Steward



Alqassim HAMIDADDIN
ASN Steward

Received by:

Name: *Quandt*

Date: *27.2.24*

Time: *20:32*

Signature:



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