



2024 SPA FRANCORCHAMPS EVENT

24 to 28 July 2024

From	The Stewards	Document	38
To	The Team Manager, ART Grand Prix	Date	26 July 2024
		Time	23:35

The Stewards, having received a report from the Race Director, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

No / Driver 25 - Tuukka Taponen

Competitor ART Grand Prix

Time 15:34

Session Qualifying

Fact Car 25 (Taponen) impeded cars on the racing line in the approach to Turn 18.

Infringement Breach of Article 12.2.1.i of the FIA International Sporting Code and Article 31.6 of the 2024 FIA Formula 3 Sporting Regulations.

Decision A drop of 3 places on the grid for the next race in which the Driver participates. There are no penalty points associated with this decision.

Reason The Stewards examined video evidence. They summoned and heard the Driver and Team Representative (Document 36).

Video footage showed Car 9 (Dunne) and Car 25 (Taponen) driving ahead of a train of cars up to Turn 17. Car 9 went off the racing line and was driving at a slower pace, Car 25 at that point was leading a train of cars on the racing line. The driver of Car 25 stated that he was waiting for other cars to overtake. Video evidence showed Car 25 on the racing line and driving at a marginally slower pace for around 9 seconds. The Stewards questioned the driver for the reason why he did not pick up the pace – the driver responded by stating that he wanted cars behind and/or on his right to overtake him. The driver explained the advantage of remaining behind a car during qualifying to gain a slipstream.

Having considered the matter extensively the Stewards determined that the driver's actions were in breach of the Race Director's Event Notes (document 8) – which states "*when drivers are on the racing line, they must ensure they are traveling at a speed sufficient to not impede any drivers on a fast lap or anyone starting their fast lap.*" The Stewards accordingly assess a penalty of 3-place grid drop and no penalty points.

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.

Mazen Al-Hilli

Tanja Geilhausen

Wim Cools

The Stewards