

DECISION No: 30

From: The Stewards **Date:** 12 October 2024
To: All Teams **Time:** 18:50 hrs

The Stewards, having received a protest from Team WRT against the classification of Race 1, summoned and heard from the Race Director and the competitor's representative(s), have considered the following matter and determine the following:

Session: Race 1
Fact: Team WRT submitted a protest against the classification of Race 1 concerning pit window during Safety-Car procedure
Offence: Alleged Breach of Article 20.5.2 of the Fanatec GT World Challenge Europe powered by AWS Sporting Regulations
Decision: **The protest is rejected. Pursuant to International Sporting Code Article 13.10.1 the protest deposit will be retained in its entirety.**

Reason:

The protest was lodged against the Provisional Classification.
The Stewards first considered if the protest was admissible.
The Stewards determined that as it was lodged on time and complied with the requirements of Chapter 13 of the FIA International Sporting Code, it was an admissible protest.

Hearing Procedure:

On October 12, the Race Director was heard at 16h00 and Team WRT was summoned to declare at 16h15 (Document 54).

On behalf of Team WRT:

- Vincent Vosse
- Pierre Dieudonne
- Maxime Bonnefoy

At the hearing there were no objections against the composition of the Stewards panel.

At the hearing the parties referred to the documents submitted. None of the parties submitted further evidence or initiated the hearing of additional persons or conducting further investigations.

The Race Director arguments:

The Race Director decided not to delay the pit window open during safety car procedure due to safety reasons. Due to the bad weather conditions and some incidents on track even with the presence of the safety car, he decided to keep the safety car on track and not to delay the pit window opening because it was uncertain when it would be possible to call the safety car in. In his opinion, if the pit window open would have been delayed it would have affected the fairness and the safety of everyone involved in the competition. After receiving requests from several teams, the Race Director decided to clarify through a message in the timing monitors "WE CONFIRM PIT WINDOW IS OPEN".

The claims of Team WRT:

Team WRT alleged that there was an irregularity in Race 1 regarding article 20.5.2 of the Fanatec GT World Challenge Europe powered by AWS Sporting Regulations. According to Pierre Dieudonne, the situation was confusing and it was not clear when the pit window was open. He continued and claim that the result did not reflect fairly and the race classification was not correct. In Team WRT perspective, the pit window will not be open after 25 minutes since the start of the Race due to the safety car procedure, as stated in article 20.5.2 of the mentioned regulations. Vincent Voss stated that it was the team's responsibility to be aware of the applicable regulations and they felt penalized in this instance by having followed it. He considered that could have been at least useful to have the clear information that the pit window will be open even under safety car procedure. In the end, they raised the question if we were able to cancel the race.

Conclusion of the Stewards:

Having considered the various statements made by the parties, the Stewards determine that although the stated in article 20.5.2 of the Fanatec GT World Challenge Europe powered by AWS Sporting Regulations, the safety reasons presented by the Race Director support the decision made of keep the pit window opening without delay.

After having reviewed the Pit Stops Timekeeping Report, it was possible to see that car #32 pitted at 14h25:01.190 and changed the driver, being the fifth car to do so. Also, car #30, from the same Team, pitted at 14h25:05.622, being the tenth car to do it. There is no way of knowing if and how much they were affected or benefited from the fact that pit window opening was not delayed.

The Stewards agree that at this point, any attempt to rectify a possible unfair situation could create another one to other competitor and so on.

Accordingly, the Protest is dismissed and the Protest Deposit is not refunded.

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, within the applicable time limits.



Luis ROBY
Steward (Chairman)



Yves BACQUELAINE
International Steward



David FUENTES
ASN Steward

Received by the Competitor:
Date: 12/10/2024
Time: 14 h 14
Signature: PIERRE DIEUDONNE