

## **2022 AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX**

07 - 10 July 2022

From The Stewards Document 27

To The Team Manager, Oracle Red Bull Racing Date 08 July 2022

Time 20:57

The Stewards, having received a report from the Race Director, summoned (document 20) and heard from the driver and team representative, have considered the following matter, and determine the following:

No / Driver 11 - Sergio Perez

Competitor Oracle Red Bull Racing

**Time** 17:39

Session Qualifying

**Fact** Car 11 left the track without a justifiable reason at T8.

**Offence** Breach of Article 33.3 of the FIA Formula One Sporting Regulations.

**Decision** Deletion of lap time on lap 17.

Deletion of all lap times in Q3

**Reason** The Stewards heard from the driver of Car 11 (Sergio Perez) and team

representatives and examined video evidence.

Perez left the track at Turn 8 on his last flying lap of Q2, just prior to the end of the session. As this was not identified until the moment before Q3 started, the lap was not deleted prior to the start of Q3 and Perez started Q3. This is a consequence of having many situations to examine in each session. The video was clear and there is no doubt of the breach, which the team admitted.

The team made the point that leaving the track at this point is not a clear advantage and brought data to support that point. However, the stewards considered that this was not a case of "gaining a lasting advantage", but rather is "leaving the track without a justifiable reason", which is another part of the same rule and which is the section that is being applied to qualifying sessions.

This situation, where a driver moves through to a subsequent round of qualifying, and then is identified as having committed a track limits breach, does not happen regularly and certainly not recently. Thus the stewards have to examine this as a new situation.

The team made the point that they took both risk and expended resources to compete in Q3. The stewards accept this point. However, in assessing a penalty after a session, this is no different than any other situation.

The usual penalty is deleting the lap time concerned, and the stewards order the same penalty here. However, as a consequence, the driver would not have proceeded into Q3 and therefore, in fairness to all the other competitors, the stewards order that all the lap times for Q3 for the driver also are deleted.

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.

Tim Mayer Silvia Bellot

Enrique Bernoldi Walter Jobst

**The Stewards**