

2021 BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX

25 - 28 March 2021

From	The Stewards	Document	29
To	The Team Manager, Aston Martin Cognizant F1 Team	Date	28 March 2021
		Time	15:20

The Stewards, having received a report from the Race Director, summoned (document 25) and heard from the driver and team representative, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

No / Driver 5 - Sebastian Vettel

Competitor Aston Martin Cognizant F1 Team

Time 18:18

Session Qualifying

Fact Failure to respect double yellow flags at turn 1.

Offence Breach of Appendix H, Art. 2.5.5.b) and Breach of Art 12.2.1.i of the International Sporting Code, non-compliance with Race Director's Event Notes 7.1

Decision 5 grid place penalty
(3 penalty points imposed, total of 3 points in the 12 month period)

Reason The Stewards heard from the driver of Car 5 (Sebastian Vettel), the team representative and have reviewed video, radio, telemetry and marshalling system evidence, from both Car 5 and the cars surrounding him.

Car 9 spun at Turn 1 in the last moments of Q1 bringing out a double yellow flag in the marshalling sector. Bottas, Vettel, Perez and Russell approached the scene and drove past Mazepin. Bottas, was immediately instructed by his team to abort his lap in accordance with the Race Director's Event Notes (Point 7.1). Perez and Russell received the chequered flag, and were instructed to slow, with Russell receiving the additional information that it had been a double yellow sector.

Vettel did not abandon his lap. He explained to the Stewards that he saw the smoke ahead of him, but was unsure if it was a lock-up or a stopped car until he was quite close to the car and the smoke was lifting. The Stewards observed that he had already passed the signal panel when it illuminated as he approached the scene, and that the marshals in that turn had not yet reacted with a yellow flag. Nevertheless, Vettel was approaching a car that was stopped sideways on the track and by the rule this would necessitate a double yellow flag.

During the drivers' briefing, the Race Director emphasised that the flag code must be rigorously enforced. The Stewards consider that the requirement to abandon the lap during practice and qualifying, both in the Code and in the Race Director's notes was instituted to disincentivise the drivers from any type of management of their speeds approaching an incident, with a view to maybe setting a lap time, when the requirement is that they should be able to completely stop when approaching such an incident. In this case, it was clear that the driver slowed slightly approaching the

incident, but continued trying to set a meaningful lap time.

In this case, the driver would have received a warning on his dash and the team should have been able to see that the sector had been a double yellow and could have advised the driver as other teams did. While the argument that the driver was already inside the sector when it went double yellow evokes sympathy, the Stewards feel it is important to note that he was approaching an incident visible ahead of him. Further, the car ahead, in the same position, was instructed to abandon the lap, as is intended by the Race Director's notes.

The Stewards therefore order the usual penalty in this case, a drop of five grid positions.

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 Article 10.1.1 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules, within the applicable time limits.

Tim Mayer

Richard Norbury

Emanuele Pirro

Mazen Al Hilli

The Stewards