

STEWARDS DECISION

Number 36



Document: 36

2021 REPCO SUPERCARS CHAMPIONSHIP RACES 15 & 16

"NTI TOWNSVILLE 500"

Reid Park Circuit, Townsville, Queensland

07 to 11 July 2021

The Stewards, having received a referral from the Deputy Race Director, summoned and heard from the Competitor's Authorised Representative, have considered the matter and determine the following:

Competitor	Car 34 Matt Stone Racing Pty Ltd
Car and Driver	Car 34 Jake KostECKI
Date	Sunday, 11 July 2021
Session	Race 16
Fact	During Race 16, Supercars Technical reported to the DRD that the left and right rear tyres on Car 34, Jake KostECKI, were below 17psi on the reconnaissance lap to the Grid, while on the Grid and at the start of the formation lap.
Rule	Rule D17.1.17 – the permitted pressure of a Control Tyre when fitted to a Car is 17psi which must be achieved at any time that the Car is on the Circuit during any Session.
Decision	Car 34, Jake KostECKI, is disqualified from Race 16 of the 2021 Repco Supercars Championship.
Reason	See Annexure A.

The Competitor is reminded that Decisions and Penalties that may be subject to Appeal are set out in B7.7.2 and the Rights to and process for an Appeal are set out in B5.

Issued by the Stewards of the Event:

Chris McMahon (Chair)
MOTORSPORT Australia Stewards

Trevor Neumann

Geoffrey Nicol

DATE: 12 July 2021

TIME: 1130hrs

Annexure A to Stewards Decision 36 – Re Matt Stone Racing – Breach of Rule D17.1.17

The referral from the DRD stated that the Competitor admits the Rule had been breached as alleged, but agreement could not be reached with the Competitor on the penalty to be applied. The DRD had proposed the Category's Recommended Minimum Penalty, which is disqualification of the Car from the Race.

The Authorised Team Representative confirmed the facts and that the issue for determination by the Stewards is the penalty to be applied. He submitted a penalty other than disqualification should be imposed. He referred to the Stewards' decision in Race 12 of the Championship, held at the Darwin eventⁱ which he submitted was a breach of the same Rule and so the Stewards should apply that penalty in the current circumstances.

In reply, the DRD acknowledged that the same Rule was in issue in the decision the Competitor referred to but said that the circumstances in that matter were different and that the Stewards should not consider themselves bound by that Decision and look at the facts of the current matter before them and consider the issue on its merits and apply the Recommended Minimum Penalty.

The Stewards having referred to the Table of Recommended Minimum Penalties document (issued by the Supercars Commission for the 2021 Championship year) note the Recommended Minimum Penalty for a breach of this Rule during a race is disqualification.

Reason

The stated and obvious purpose of the Table of Recommended Minimum Penalties document is to promote certainty for the competition through the consistent application of penalties for breaches of the same rule. However, blind application of the Recommended Minimum Penalty is inappropriate. The document acknowledges that the determination and imposition of penalties are matters entirely for the Stewards, using their discretion.

While consistency of penalty is an important consideration, the Stewards accept that each case must be determined on its own facts, which while on the surface may appear be similar, upon closer analysis will be different and can and often do lead to different outcomes between cases.

The Stewards also note that motorsport is very much a team sport. The adage, "*you win as a team and lose as a team*" is often quoted in team sports. There is merit and wisdom in that.

After considering the facts of the current case and weighing up the above considerations, the Stewards decide that the appropriate penalty to apply is the Recommended Minimum Penalty, which is disqualification.

The Stewards informed the parties orally of their decision at 1827hrs on 11 July 2021 and indicated that the written reasons for their decision would issue separately and delivered at another time. This is now those reasons.

ⁱ Stewards Decision 29 issued 20 June 2021 in the matter of Car 8, Brad Jones Racing.