



2024 JAPANESE GRAND PRIX

05 - 07 April 2024

From	The Stewards	Document	52
To	The Team Manager, Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS F1 Team	Date	07 April 2024
		Time	18:14

The Stewards, having received a report from the Race Director, summoned (documents 46 & 47) and heard from the drivers and team representatives, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

No / Driver 63 - George Russell

Competitor Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS F1 Team

Time 15:52

Session Race

Fact Car 81 left the track between Turns 16 and 17 and rejoined in front of Car 63.

Infringement Alleged breach of Appendix L, Chapter IV, Article 2 b) of the International Sporting Code.

Decision No further action.

Reason The Stewards heard from the driver of Car 81 (Oscar Piastri), the driver of Car 63 (George Russell), team representatives and reviewed external and in-car video evidence.

This incident provided a number of challenges in arriving at a decision.

There are a number of matters that, based on the “level of comfort” criteria used by the International Court of Appeal in accepting evidence, we accept as fact:

1. That the driver of Car 63 did not “dive in” and was in control at the entry to Turn 16.
 2. That coming into Turn 16 Car 63’s front axle was in front of the mirrors of Car 81 hence according to the driving standards, Car 63 was entitled to “racing room” on Turn 16.
 3. That Car 63 bounced off the inside kerb and then collided with Car 81 (based on photographic evidence tabled by Car 81).
 4. That the driver of Car 81, having felt the impact from Car 63, took evasive action by driving off the track rather than risking another collision with perhaps more serious consequences.
 5. That the driver of Car 63 left sufficient room on the exit of Turn 16 for Car 81 to take the turn remaining on track.
 6. That Car 81 cut the chicane and returned safely to the track in front of Car 63.
- The driving standards are however silent on what action is required of a driver who leaves the track to avoid a collision or is forced off, safely rejoins the track and retains position.

Not that this is a determining point, we note that both drivers and team representatives agreed this incident did not warrant the imposition of any penalty.

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.

Decisions of the Stewards are taken independently of the FIA and are based solely on the relevant regulations, guidelines and evidence presented.

Garry Connelly

Loïc Bacqueline

Enrique Bernoldi

Kazuhiro Tsuge

The Stewards