

## 2021 ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX

9 - 12 December 2021

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<b>From</b>	The Stewards	<b>Document</b>	57
<b>To</b>	All Teams, All Officials	<b>Date</b>	12 December 2021
		<b>Time</b>	22:15

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**Title** Decision - Mercedes Protest Art. 48.8

**Description** Decision - Mercedes Protest Art. 48.8

**Enclosed** UAE DOC 57 - Mercedes Protest Art 48.8.pdf

**Garry Connelly**

**Felix Holter**

**Derek Warwick**

**Mohamed Al Hashmi**

**The Stewards**

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### **Protest filed by Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team against Car number 33, driven by Max Verstappen (Red Bull Racing Honda)**

#### **Stewards Decision:**

**The Protest is dismissed.**

#### **Procedure:**

1. On December 12 the parties were summoned at 1945 hrs (Documents 52 and 53) and heard. The following persons were present during the hearing.

On behalf of Mercedes:

- Ron Meadows
- Andrew Shovlin
- Paul Harris (Team Legal Counsel)

On behalf of Red Bull:

- Jonathan Wheatley

2. At the hearing there were no objections against the composition of the Stewards panel. The parties set out oral arguments and addressed the questions asked by the Stewards.
3. 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 claims of Mercedes:**

Mercedes claimed that Car 33 overtook Car 44 during the Safety Car period at 1832hrs, in breach of Article 48.8 of the 2021 Formula One Sporting Regulations.

#### **Red Bull's arguments in defence:**

Red Bull argued that Car 44 was not "overtaken" by Car 33, that both cars were "on and off the throttle" and that there were "a million precedents" under Safety Car where cars had pulled alongside then moved back behind the Car that was in front.

## **Conclusions of the Stewards :**

The Stewards consider that the protest is admissible.

Having considered the various statements made by the parties. The Stewards determine that although Car 33 did at one stage, for a very short period of time, move slightly in front of Car 44, at a time when both cars were accelerating and braking, it moved back behind Car 44 and it was not in front when the Safety Car period ended (i.e. at the line).

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 and Chapter 4 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules, within the applicable time limits.

**Garry Connelly**

**Felix Holter**

**Derek Warwick**

**Mohamed Al Hashmi**

**The Stewards**