



2022 IMOLA EVENT

21 to 24 April 2022

From	The FIA Formula 3 Race Director	Document	39
To	All Teams, All Officials	Date	23 April 2022
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The FIA Formula 3 Race Director



IMOLA EVENT

22ND – 24TH APRIL 2022

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To	FIA Formula 3 Teams and Officials / The Stewards	Date	23 April 2022
		Time	0:30

Race Directors Communication

On 22nd April 2022 during the FIA F3 qualifying practice at the Imola event, there was confusion around the end of the session. The session started at 16:00 with a scheduled duration of 30 minutes. At 16:24 the session was suspended with a red flag after a car stopped in the gravel at turn 17. After the vehicle was safely recovered, the qualifying session was resumed at 16:31 with a remaining time of 5 minutes and 39 seconds. At 16:34, with 2 minutes and 16 seconds remaining qualifying time, due to a malfunction of the system, the start lights as well as the pit exit lights were switched to red and the results on TV were marked as if the session was finished. After being visible for a period of time the start lights went off again. The checkered flag, however, was only waved later by the marshal at the control line at 16:36, after the entire scheduled duration of 30 minutes had elapsed.

The behavior of the majority of drivers and teams must be expressly acknowledged and appreciated, because they interpreted the red lights as a signal to abandon their attempts to achieve a fast lap and returned to the pit lane at reduced speed.

However, the FIA International Sporting Code, its appendices and the sporting regulations indicate the official signal for the end of a practice session is in the form of a waved black and white checkered flag at the line. In addition, a recommendation exists to supplement this flag with red start lights at the start line. The illuminated red lights only have a regulatory meaning in combination with either a red flag or the checkered flag as described in the FIA recommendations for start light signals. It must be stressed again, that this is a recommendation only.

All lap times achieved up to the point of the checkered flag are therefore valid and should be taken into account in the drawing up the classification.

The FIA would like to make it clear that this unfortunate confusion should not be used as a basis for ignoring the signaling lights in the future. On the contrary, the FIA takes the opportunity to compliment the behavior of the drivers and to consider them as an example of safe driving conduct. However, it must also be pointed out, that the drivers who did not slow down, in this case did not violate any regulations.

Claro Ziegahn
Race Director
FIA Formula 3 Championship