

2022 BELGIAN GRAND PRIX

25 - 28 August 2022

From	The Stewards	Document	46
To	The Team Manager, Scuderia Ferrari	Date	27 August 2022
		Time	14:10

The Stewards have considered the following matter and determine the following:

No / Driver 16 - Charles Leclerc

Competitor Scuderia Ferrari

Time 13:00

Session Practice 3

Fact Car 16 accumulated 20 grid place penalties under Article 28.3 of the FIA Formula One Sporting Regulations.

Offence Accumulated more than 15 grid place penalties under Article 28.3 of the FIA Formula One Sporting Regulations.

Decision Required to start the race from the back of the starting grid.

Reason As car 16 has accumulated 20 grid place penalties (Documents 14 and 31) for this competition under Article 28.3 of the FIA Formula One Sporting Regulations, this is in excess of the fifteen permitted under the Regulation and therefore the car will be required to start the race from the back of the starting grid, which will be handled in accordance with Article 42.

The Stewards consider this to be the logical conclusion reading Article 28.3. However, it is possible to interpret it differently. The third paragraph of Article 28.3 states that *“If a driver incurs a penalty exceeding fifteen (15) grid places he will be required to start the race from the back of the starting grid”*. The Stewards published a decision (Document 14) which imposed a fifteen grid penalty. The competitor subsequently changed the Control Electronics and the Stewards published a separate decision (Document 31) imposing a five grid place penalty.

This exact situation has not happened since this rule was put in place in 2018. The wording of the sentence is singular “a penalty” and neither document imposed more than 15 grid places. So it could be interpreted that this does not trigger a “back of grid” penalty.

However, the first paragraph of the regulation states that *“Penalties will be applied according the following table and will be cumulative”* [in each Competition]. The Stewards further note that in fact, Document 14 combines two separate penalties (a ten place and a five place) and is therefore two separate penalties in a single document. So logically regardless of how many documents the penalties are published in, all decisions accumulate over the Competition, and anything over the 15 grid place limit triggers the back of the grid penalty. Finally, there are other instances

in the regulations where penalties accumulate over time (such as penalty points) which accumulate until they trigger a separate decision provided for in the regulations. This is similar.

It is important to note that the “start the race from the back of the starting grid” penalty is fully embedded in Article 28 (Power Unit Usage), was specifically introduced in response to nonsensically high grid penalties from PU changes, and has never been used to accumulate grid penalties imposed from other articles of the Regulations. It should be read holistically as part of Article 28.3 and does not refer to other articles.

This explanation is provided as this is first time this situation has occurred and this is a precedent.

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.

Tim Mayer

Matteo Perini

Enrique Bernoldi

Yves Bacquellaine

The Stewards