

2018 RUSSIAN GRAND PRIX

27 - 30 September 2018

From	The Stewards	Document	37
To	All Teams, All Officials	Date	30 September 2018
		Time	11:33

Determination of Starting Grid

Article 11.9.2.a of the FIA International Sport Code authorises the Stewards to “settle any matter which might arise during an event”.

Article 23.3b) of the FIA Formula One Sporting Regulations provides that if a driver incurs a penalty exceeding 15 grid positions in relation to power unit elements, he will be required to start from the back of the starting grid.

It further provides that if more than one driver receives such a penalty they will be arranged at the back of the grid in the order in which the offences were committed.

However, Article 35.2c) provides that grid position penalties be applied in the order the offences were committed.

This could lead to a situation where a driver who was not part of a group of drivers required to start from the back of the grid, could incur a penalty (for example a change of gearbox) which placed him behind those required to start from the back of the grid.

We do not consider that such a car which has replaced one power unit element or a gearbox, should be placed behind those who have had multiple changes.

This is consistent with the situation that applied at the 2018 Italian Grand Prix, namely that all those cars which are required to start at the back of the grid will be treated as one “group” and will always start behind the other cars, not so penalised.

At the 2018 Russian Grand Prix, 5 cars incurred the penalty of “starting from the back of the starting grid”. They should therefore occupy the last 5 positions on the grid.

Accordingly, the Stewards determine the starting position of car 2 will be immediately in front of the group of 5 cars which are required to start at the back of the grid.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal the decisions of the Stewards (with the exception of those referred to in Article 12.2.4 of the FIA International Sporting Code), in accordance with Article 15 of the FIA International Sporting Code and Article 9.1.1 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules, within the applicable time limits.

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