



2026 AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

06 - 08 March 2026

From	The Stewards	Document	43
To	The Team Manager, Aston Martin Aramco F1 Team	Date	07 March 2026
		Time	19:35

The Stewards have received a request from Aston Martin Aramco F1 Team to allow Car 18 to start the Race despite:

- Failing to set a qualifying time within 107% of the fastest time set in Q1.

In accordance with Article B2.4.3b of the FIA F1 Regulations, the Stewards have the power to grant permission if circumstances justify it. These circumstances include taking into account parameters where “a suitable lap time [has been] set in another practice session, the general performance of the driver in Competitions of the Championship...”

The Competitor brought the following matters to the attention of the Stewards in seeking permission:

- The driver of the second car from the team, Car 14, Fernando Alonso, demonstrated that the AMR26 was capable of qualifying within 107% of the fastest qualifying time;
- The driver of Car 18, Lance Stroll:
has completed a total of 859km so far this year in the AMR26;
has competed in 178 F1 World Championship Grands Prix since making his debut in 2017;
has competed in seven Australian Grand Prix races, achieving classification in six of those events, with a best result of 4th place in 2023, demonstrating significant familiarity with the circuit and its operational requirements
has scored 325 career World Championship points, including podium finishes and one pole position.
- The team also highlighted that they took the decision to not have Car 18 participate in Qualifying, due to a damaged oil line in the car, out of prudence, to enable them to undertake further investigations.

Taking into account the reasons set out above, which the Stewards consider to be compelling, the Stewards grant permission for Car 18, Lance Stroll, to start the Race. The car will be placed on the grid in accordance with Article B2.5.4 of the FIA F1 Regulations.

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 5 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.

Nish Shetty

Pedro Lamy

The Stewards

Mathieu Remmerie

Matthew Selley