



FIA FORMULA 1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



# 2026 CHINESE GRAND PRIX

13 - 15 March 2026

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<b>From</b>	The Stewards	<b>Document</b>	60
<b>To</b>	All Teams, All Officials	<b>Date</b>	14 March 2026
		<b>Time</b>	16:34

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**Title** Decision - Qualifying SC2-SC1 Times

**Description** Decision - Qualifying SC2-SC1 Times

**Enclosed** CHN DOC 60 - SC2-SC1 deleted lap times.pdf

**Nish Shetty**

**Matthew Selley**

**Pedro Lamy**

**Zheng Honghai**

**The Stewards**



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The Stewards, having received a report from the Race Director, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

**Session** Qualifying

**Fact** The F1 cars below exceeded the 1:56.0 time limit between the Safety Car lines.

No	Car	Driver	Competitor	Time of Day	Lap
1	3	Max Verstappen	Oracle Red Bull Racing	15:07:01	L4 (Q1)
2	27	Nico Hulkenberg	Audi Revolut F1 Team	15:08:13	L5 (Q1)
3	5	Gabriel Bortoleto	Audi Revolut F1 Team	15:08:31	L5 (Q1)
4	31	Esteban Ocon	TGR Haas F1 Team	15:16:11	L7 (Q1)
5	87	Oliver Bearman	TGR Haas F1 Team	15:16:21	L7 (Q1)
6	41	Arvid Lindblad	Visa Cash App Racing Bulls F1 Team	15:16:35	L8 (Q1)
7	18	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin Aramco F1 Team	15:16:40	L8 (Q1)
8	12	Kimi Antonelli	Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS F1 Team	15:30:32	L7 (Q2)
9	63	George Russell	Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS F1 Team	15:50:51	L11 (Q3)

**Infringement** Alleged breach of Article B1.8.5 of the FIA F1 Regulations and Article 12.2.1i of the FIA International Sporting Code (non-compliance with the Race Director's Competition Notes, item 1, document 31).

**Decision** No further action.

**Reasons** The Stewards thoroughly reviewed Marshalling/Positioning data, timing data, on-board cameras and CCTV cameras.

All drivers concerned stayed at or above speeds necessary to stay below 1:56.0 around the vast majority of the circuit. However, in all cases (save for Car 12 below) the Stewards determined that the drivers took appropriate actions to not impede other drivers, and in all cases, they slowed down significantly to allow other drivers to pass while giving those drivers a clear track. The Stewards therefore determine that all drivers concerned did not drive "unnecessarily slowly", and that they were above the maximum time because they took appropriate steps, and we therefore take no further action.

The Stewards further note that Car 12 experienced a technical issue on lap 7 of Q2, and Car 63 encountered a technical issue on lap 11 of Q3. Nevertheless, these incidents did not affect the safe and orderly conduct of the event.

**Note**

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****Matthew Selley****Pedro Lamy****Zheng Honghai****The Stewards**