



2026 MELBOURNE EVENT

5 to 8 March 2026

From	The Stewards	Document	25
To	The Team Manager, PREMA Racing	Date	06 March 2026
		Time	17:39

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

No / Driver 11 - Sebastian Montoya

Competitor PREMA Racing

Time 15:38

Session Qualifying

Fact Car 11 (Montoya) was alleged to have failed to follow the Race Director Competition Notes (Document 6) and returned to the F1 pit lane instead of the F2 pit lane.

Infringement Alleged breach of Article 12.2.1.i of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code - Failure to follow the instructions of the relevant officials for the safe and orderly conduct of the *Event*.

Item 25.2 of the Race Director's Competition Notes - General Instructions and Information - At the end of the qualifying session all cars must continue after taking the chequered flag, and leave the track via the Support Pit Lane, proceeding directly to Parc Fermé. Drivers must follow marshals' instructions.

Decision No further action.

Reason The Stewards summoned (Document 21) and heard the Driver of Car 11 (Montoya) and the team representative. They examined video evidence.

The driver admitted that he drove into the Formula 1 pit lane at the end of the qualifying session but explained that he intended to enter the support pit lane but, as he was doing so, he saw a marshal standing in the pit lane pointing towards the Formula 1 Pit Lane and understood this to be a direction not to enter the support pit lane but to enter the Formula 1 pit lane and did so.

The Stewards reviewed the available footage from the car, which confirms the driver's version and accept that is a reasonable excuse for the driver not to follow the Race Director's instructions for the end of the qualifying session and take no further action.

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.

Andrew Mallalieu

Tanja Geilhausen

Christopher McMahon

The Stewards