



## Bulletin 2025-05

**Subject: Changes to 8.1 Grievance Procedure & 17 Assessment of Performance.**

**Issue Date: September 23, 2025**

**Implementation: October 1<sup>st</sup> 2025**

Rationale:

- Clarification that the grievance procedure is a three-step process that starts with an inquiry.
- Removed some duplicate mentions of the specific penalties within the rules and replaced with a reference pointing to the penalty in section 17.2.
- Clarified that 17.2 penalties are performance related while 17.3 are penalties for improper procedures.
- 17.3 Improper Procedure penalties have always been a strict 10-minute penalty. In some of these cases it is believed that the stewards need more flexibility to assign an appropriate penalty based upon seriousness and circumstance. These infractions do not show a specific penalty but will be investigated by the Steward(s) and an appropriate penalty assigned.

### 8.1 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE PROTOCOLS

CARS has provided a three-part mechanism for resolving grievances that may arise in a competition (see also CARS GCR 1.4). It consists of three levels which are detailed in sections 8, 9 & 10 respectively.

The grievance procedure always starts with an inquiry followed by a protest if applicable, and finally an appeal if applicable.

- ~~a) inquiry,~~
- ~~b) protest,~~
- ~~c) appeal.~~

The inquiry level is where competitors, who have questions about an issue arising at an event, seek remedy from the organizers.

## 17 ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE

**17.1 START**

Each entry shall start the event with zero penalties and the entry with the lowest penalty (in hours, minutes, seconds and tenths of seconds for electronic timing or last whole second for manual timing) at the finish shall be declared the winner.

**17.2 PERFORMANCE PENALTIES**

Penalties shall be assessed by the organizers as follows:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a) On special stages  | Time taken   |
| b) Each minute late at a time control or main time control  | 10 seconds   |
| c) Each minute early at a time control or main time control | 1 Minute   |
| d) Making a false start to a special stage                  |  |
| a) <del>10 sec</del> 1 <sup>st</sup> offence                | <u>10 seconds</u>                                  |
| d) <del>1 min</del> 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence                 | <u>1 minute</u>                                    |
| e) <del>3 min each</del> additional offence                 | <u>3 minutes per additional offence</u>            |
| e) Striking a physical chicane                              | 15 seconds per element struck                      |
| f) Speed violation in Virtual Chicane                       | 10 seconds < 9 kph over<br>30 seconds > 9 kph over |
| g) Speeding in a service park                               | 2 Minutes per offence                              |

No time penalty shall be assessed for infractions of a non-competitive or administrative nature.

**17.3 IMPROPER PROCEDURE INFRACTION PENALTIES**

**17.3.1** Improper Procedure Infractions must be reported in writing to the organiser by marshals, judges of fact or competitors. Upon acceptance of the Inquiry or Judge of Fact report by the organizer, a penalty shall be applied as specified in 17.3.5.

**17.3.2** Where no penalty is specified the infraction shall be referred to the Steward(s) for investigation, the seriousness and circumstance of the infraction shall be taken into consideration and may impose any penalty specified in GCR section 7.

17.3.3 A second infraction during the event may result in a recommendation by the organizer to the steward(s) for a sentence of exclusion.

~~a penalty of 10 minutes will be applied for a first infraction, and may result in a recommendation by the organizer to the steward(s) for a sentence of exclusion for a second violation during the event.~~

17.3.4 Use of in-car video footage may be used by event or CARS officials to verify compliance with the regulations for use of safety warning devices (see CARS GCR 3.11c)

### 17.3.5 Specific Infractions

| <u>INFRACTION</u>   | <u>PENALTY</u>                          |
|---|---|
| a) Illegal service as defined in CARS NRR's 18.1.7 & 18.1.8,  | <u>10 minutes</u>                       |
| b) Illegal refuelling as per CARS NRR 15.9  | <u>10 minutes</u>                       |
| c) Shortcutting a stage,  | Stage lateness time                     |
| d) Reversing in a Control Zone,   | <u>10 minutes</u>                       |
| e) Being towed on a stage,  | Exclusion except per CARS NRR 17.6.1b)  |
| f) <u>Being towed on transit, other than by another competitor</u>  | <u>10 minutes.</u>                      |
| g) Exceeding speed limit at Observation Controls during a rally   |   |
| a) 1-10 km/Hr over the limit  | 0 seconds                               |
| b) 10 - 39 Km/Hr over the limit   | 10 seconds per km/h over                |
| c) over 39 Km/Hr  | exclusion.                              |
| h) Interfering with the operation of tracking systems, <u>boost monitors</u> , or other equipment installed in the car by CARS, the event organizer, or series media. | 10 minutes                              |
| i) Failure to properly wear safety harness, driving suit, helmet, or head and neck restraint while traversing a special stage,  | 10 minutes                              |
| j) Violation of safety procedures detailed in CARS NRR 17.9,  | <u>See 17.3.2</u>                       |
| k) Violation of studded tire regulations  | <del>10 minutes</del> <u>see 17.3.2</u> |

- l) Driving on a public road during a road section, in a manner that causes damage to the road surface. Including but not limited to;
  - Driving on the metal rim of a wheel.
  - Driving without a wheel.
  - Driving with mechanical parts dragging. ~~Exclusion~~ [see 17.3.2](#)
- m) ~~Serious~~ Violation of quiet zone regulations, [see 17.3.2](#)
- n) Traversing a stage with window(s) open (more than 2.5 cm) and without window net(s) in place, [see 17.3.2](#)
- o) Having a radar detection equipment in a vehicle as per CARS Technical Rule 12.4.~~9~~, [see 17.3.2](#)
- p) Violation of control procedures (see CARS NRR 15.4), [see 17.3.2](#)
- q) Violation of Parc Fermé regulations (see CARS NRR [16.7.4](#)), [see 17.3.2](#)
- r) improper modification to a time card (see CARS 15.2.6) , [see 17.3.2](#)
- s) [Failure to complete the entire rally route per CARS NRR 17.6.](#) [see 17.3.2](#)
- t) ~~Traversing a stage with the sun roof open or roof panels removed,~~

## 17.6 FINISHING QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify as a finisher, ~~an entry shall check in at every control in the rally~~ [the crew shall follow the route as described in the route book and check-in at all controls in the correct sequence in the direction of the rally route.](#) within the MPE-MPL. Unless CARS NRR's 15.13.1 or 15.15 are applied.

17.6.1 A competing vehicle shall complete the entire course under its own power. ~~(Failure to do so will result in exclusion.)~~ Exceptions are listed below:

- a) By a ferry, the use of which is required by the route of the event;
- b) By outside means for the minimum distance necessary to extricate it from difficulty (ditch, snowbank, blocking or partly blocking the road), or to clear the route for other competitors;
- c) By gravity;
- d) By the unaided efforts of its crew (including pushing out of a Parc Fermé);
- e) By official permission or instruction;
- f) For the purpose of facilitating re-start see CARS NRR 15.15;

g) Being towed by another competitor on a transit.

15.4.9 Any difference between the actual check-in time and the target check-in time is penalised as follows: as per 17.2 b) & 17.2 c)

~~A—For late arrival: 10 seconds per minute or fraction of a minute;~~

~~B—For early arrival: 1 minute per minute or fraction of a minute.~~

15.12.7 A false start, particularly one made before the marshal or an electronic system has given the signal, shall be penalised as follows: per 17.2 d)

~~a) 1st Offence: 10 seconds;~~

~~b) 2nd Offence: 1 minute;~~

~~c) 3rd Offence: 3 Minutes.~~

This penalty does not exclude heavier penalties being imposed by the Steward(s), if they judge it necessary.

For the stages time calculation, the actual start time must be used.