



**FIA World Endurance Championship
Round 1 – Qatar Airways Qatar 1812 KM
2024 February 28th - March 2nd**

Decision No. 97

From: The Stewards

Date: 28 March 2024

To: VISTA AF CORSE

Time (decision): 13:10 h

The Stewards received on March 3, 2024 at 1:22 am a report No 7-Vista AF Corse - from the FIA Sporting Delegate that amended a previous report N° 6-AF CORSE-(see below). The Stewards summoned and heard Mr. Ron Reichert from VISTA AF CORSE and after this hearing, decided to postpone their decision for further investigations.

N° / Competitor 54 / VISTA AF CORSE

Time (fact): During the race

Session: After the Race

Fact: concealment of operational personnel

Offence: Articles 2, 4 and 7 of appendix 7 of WEC Sporting Regulations

Decision: Euro 60.000,00, 30.000 payable immediately, 30.000,00 suspended until the end of the season. The suspension will be withdrawn by an infringement against Appendix 7 FIA WEC 2024 Regulations.

Reason:

FACTS

In regard of this report number 7, the FIA SPORTING DELEGATE mentioned that three people linked to VISTA AF CORSE, Mr PAOLUCCI, Mr BEDOGNI and Mr ZACCARIA, have not been declared by this competitor on the definitive list of operational staff as it is mandatory on regard of articles 1 and 2 of exhibit appendix7 of WEC 2024 Sporting Regulations.

Effectively, these people appeared on the first non operational staff list submitted to WEC sporting administration via Acotech by the team manager and the sporting director of VISTA AF CORSE respectively Mr Francesco GROMENEDA and Mr Ron REICHERT for the GT3 car N° 54.

The list was refused on the ground that some of them were not non-operational staff as they are engineers and declared in this quality by the competitor himself.

A second list was submitted by the competitor on which two engineers previously declared, Mr BEDOGNI and Mr TOGNINI no longer appeared neither on the operational staff list nor on the non-operational list.

This second list was also refused by the WEC sporting administration on the same reason as Mr ZACCARIA was always mentioned on the non operational staff list.

Then the three names -PAOLUCCI, BEDOGNI and ZACCARIA -disappeared from the final lists (operational and non operational staff) submitted by the competitor and were approved by the WEC sporting administration.

During the race, the FIA Sporting Delegate entered the Ferrari teams technical areas and villas (Ferrari reception area) to conduct an inspection and was surprised to find these three people seated behind their computers and working on technical matters linked to race cars as technical aerodynamic data.

They didn't wear the pink wristband used as identification system for operational staff
They were working on simulation and technical applications as MATLAB Simulink, and their computers were plugged to internal network.

Being questioned by the FIA sporting delegate they presented themselves as marketing and communication people and that their passes have been issued for "Ferrari".

Considering that this offence could be linked to Hyparcar Ferrari AF CORSE, the FIA Sporting Delegate submitted the report N° 6 to the Stewards.

After the race in Qatar, the Stewards summoned and heard Mr Bati Pregliasco as AF Corse team manager and Mr Mauro Barbieri from "Ferrari" who appeared voluntarily.

They both declared the engineers above mentioned were linked to GT3 and not to Hypercars.
Then the report No 6 was removed by the report No 7 directly focused on GT3 team Vista AF CORSE.

Proceedings :

i-Summon 1 to Vista AF Corse after the race in Qatar :

On March 3, 2024 after the race at 2:00am, the Stewards summoned Mister Ron REICHERT acting in Qatar as Sporting Director.

He explained that he never proposed himself ,Lorenzo PAOLUCCI, Andrea BEDOGNI nor Daniele ZACCARIA on the version 1 and 2 of the lists which were refused by WEC administration but was requested by " Ferrari" to do it.

He knows the names of these engineers, but they are not part of the team he manages for the car 54 .

After having heard the explanations from Mister Ron REICHERT around 3:00am, the Stewards decided to postpone their decision in order to obtain further clarifications and information on factual ground.

ii-It emerged from investigations carried out by the Stewards that:

- Mr PAOLUCCI, Mr BEDOGNI and Mr ZACCARIA are undoubtedly engineers and not marketing people.
- They were put on the list sent by Mr Domenico d' IGNAZIO on behalf of Ferrari Company to the promoter of the WEC in order to buy passes to access the Ferrari villa receptive which were delivered mentioning "Manufacturer"(50 € each).

iii-Summon 2: Video conference :

On March 20, 2024 at 2:00 pm, the Stewards summoned Mr Gromeneda as team manager to a video conference.

The latter asked that Mr Reichert and Mr Mauro Barbieri whom the stewards had already heard previously also be summoned with him for this video conference.

This request was accepted.

They explained :

-Mr Gromeneda: He had delegated all operational aspects to Mr REICHERT as sporting director and didn't complete the lists of operational nor non operational staff.

-Mr Reichert generally confirmed what he explained during the previous hearing in particular that the engineers named above are not part of his engineering team and that they never intervened during the Qatar race for one or the two cars of the team.

-Mr. Barbieri who spoke on behalf "Ferrari Company" (and not one "Ferrari" competitor) did his best efforts to justify the lies of the above mentioned people about their quality of engineers when they reported themselves as members of marketing team department of "Ferrari" explaining that they were young engineers very impressed by the FIA delegate.

This obviously could not convince the Stewards as we know -as one steward revealed during the hearing,- that at least one of them is working for Ferrari for more than 6 years .
He argued more that they were not involved in car operations.

After the video conference hearing ended at 3:00pm, the Stewards deliberated and made the following decision above.

DECISION

1-Reminder of the applicable regulations :Appendix 7 of WEC sporting regulations:Art 2: "Operational staff "
On regard of art 2 must be declared anyone (i) involved in operational activities, (ii) linked to a car.

a-involved in operational activities:

Art 2 of Appendix 7 of WEC Sporting Regulations : "Operational staff means: engineers in race, performance, systems,engine, hybrid systems, strategy,aero, electronic etc."

Consequently:

All these people have to be declared as operational staff, involved in in operational activities simply by virtue of their quality of engineers.

Subject not to be included in the exemptions of the Appendix 7 of WEC Sporting Regulations.

There is no exemption for operational staff but only for non operational staff (with or without seat art 3 and 4).

-b-linked to a car.

To which car this people could be linked ? To GT3 cars of Vista AF CORSE:

The lie of the three engineers about their qualities presenting themselves as marketing people has no other meaning that an attempt to cover up the reality of their activity at the time they were surprised by the FIA Sporting Delegate.

Especially as this one mentioned in the report he recognized technical aerodynamic data on their computers plugged to internal ethernet network.

The argument put forward by the "Ferrari" representative Mr Mauro representative is just a personal interpretation and will be rejected by the Stewards.

It was easier for the engineers to present themselves as engineers and to show what they were doing had nothing to do with technical matter related to racing cars, but they lied.

Moreover these engineers are linked to Vista Af Corse team as they were mentioned by this team on the first and second lists.

Even if it was a non intentional mistake this is the proof that the team recognized that they are somehow connected to him and not only guests from "Ferrari".

On regard of art. 9.15.1 of ISC and 1.3.1 of WEC sporting regulations, it is the duty of each competitor to ensure that all the people concerned by entry observe the Code and the WEC Sporting Regulations.

Consequently, the Stewards consider that the three above mentioned people due to their quality of engineers are operational staff on regard the appendix 7 of the WEC Sporting Regulations especially on art. 2 and they should have been declared by Vista Af Corse to which they are linked by this competitor himself.

This is a breach of the WEC Sporting Regulations and of the ISC.

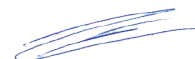
Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 15 of the FIA International Sporting Code and Chapter 4 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules, within the applicable time limits.



Jean-Francois
VEROUX
**FIA Steward
(Chairman)**



Michael
SCHWÄGERL
FIA Steward



Brieuc
KREMER
ASN Steward