



2026 AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

06 - 08 March 2026

From	The Stewards	Document	25
To	The Team Manager, Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS F1 Team	Date	06 March 2026
		Time	20:30

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

No / Driver 63 - George Russell

Competitor Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS F1 Team

Time 16:36

Session Practice 2

Fact Car 63 performed a practice start outside the designated practice start area

Infringement Breach of Article 12.2.1.i of the FIA International Sporting Code in combination with Item 14.1 of the Race Director Competition Notes (Document 8).

Decision Driver: Warning.

Reason The Stewards heard from the driver of Car 63 (George Russell) and the team representative and reviewed video evidence.

The driver admitted that he performed a practice start outside the designated practice start area defined in Item 14.1 of the Race Director's Competition Notes. However, he explained that, due to sun haze, he was unable to clearly see the grid boxes and believed that the correct location was where the rubber marks were visible on the asphalt.

Having viewed the Driver's onboard and CCTV footage, we accept that the sighting of the grid box was difficult given the light conditions but the Driver was so far forward from the designated location that it was ahead of the protection of the pit wall and this incident occurred after the Race Director had warned all Teams of the need to comply with his instructions in this regard.

The Stewards determined that the driver failed to follow the Race Director's instructions and impose a penalty consistent with the penalty for similar breaches in the past.

The Stewards remind all Competitors that compliance with the Race Director's instructions regarding the correct position from which to perform practice starts is imperative for the safe conduct of the Event.

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