



2026 AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

06 - 08 March 2026

From	The Stewards	Document	27
To	The Team Manager, BWT Alpine F1 Team	Date	06 March 2026
		Time	20:42

The Stewards, having received a report from the Race Director, summoned (document 19) and heard from the driver and team representative, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

No / Driver 43 - Franco Colapinto

Competitor BWT Alpine F1 Team

Time 16:02

Session Practice 2

Fact Driving Unnecessarily Slow on the Main Straight

Infringement Alleged Breach of Article B1.8.5 of the FIA F1 Regulations.

Decision No further action.

Reason The Stewards heard from the driver of Car 43 (Franco Colapinto), the team representative and reviewed video and in-car video evidence.

COL explained that his Car suffered a 'false neutral' as he was approaching the final turn and lost drive as he turned onto the main straight. While the Team were giving him instructions over the radio to attempt to resolve the issue, the Driver kept his Car rolling slowly on the left of the main straight having been instructed to do so by his Team should he be unable to resolve the issue and the Driver needed to stop the Car. As COL approached the control line, COL was caught by HAM. While HAM had a clear line of sight of COL for some distance along the main straight, HAM was apparently surprised to find COL moving so slowly on the racing line and had to take evasive action to avoid a collision.

COL explained that he was watching his mirrors the whole time and knew that HAM was approaching. He said that he was instructed by the Team to stay to the left because the Race Director's Competition Notes (Emergency Exit Map) marks the exit point on the main straight on the left side of the track. He said that if he had tried to move off the racing line when he had no drive he could have created a more dangerous situation.

The Stewards were satisfied that there was nothing about COL's driving which was erratic. Given his mechanical problem, he was not driving "unnecessarily" slowly. Given further that the Driver positioned his Car to ensure that he could reach the designated exit point in the event that the problem with his Car was not resolved before he reached it, the Stewards did not consider that the actions of the Driver were unsafe and therefore determined to 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 4 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

Mathieu Remmerie

Pedro Lamy

Matthew Selley

The Stewards