



2026 AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

06 - 08 March 2026

From	The Stewards	Document	42
To	The Team Manager, Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS F1 Team	Date	07 March 2026
		Time	19:26

The Stewards, having received a report from the Race Director, summoned (document 37) and heard from the team representative, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

No / Driver 12 - Kimi Antonelli

Competitor Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS F1 Team

Time 17:00

Session Qualifying

Fact Car 12 was released from its garage in an unsafe condition.

Infringement Breach of Article B1.6.2 b) i) of the FIA F1 Regulations.

Decision The Competitor (Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team) is fined €7,500.

Reason The Stewards heard from the team representative of Car 12 (Kimi Antonelli) and reviewed video, team radio and in-car video evidence.

Car 12 (Antonelli) was released from its garage during the session with a duct cooling fan still attached on the right side of the car. The fan assembly disconnected from the duct of Car 12 as it negotiated Turn 1, split apart and one section of it bounced off the track onto the gravel at the exit. Another section of the fan assembly dislodged onto the track at Turn 2 and was later struck by the front wing and tyre of another car causing debris to be strewn over the track, damage to the front wing of the other car and the session had to be red flagged to remove the debris.

The Team explained that an incident in an earlier session in which Car 12 had sustained significant damage meant that the division of labour within the Team had to be changed to repair the damage within a short time frame. Usually, a separate team member would have responsibility for inserting and removing each fan but the need to address legacy issues from the earlier incident during the session meant that the team member responsible for the fan on that side of the car was occupied on another task and the removal of the fan before the car was released from the garage was missed.

The Team (and the Driver) were unaware that the fan had not been removed until the incident was noted by Race Control.

The Stewards determine that because Car 12 left its garage with a piece of equipment still attached, it was released in an unsafe condition and the Stewards impose a fine on the Competitor accordingly.

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

Mathieu Remmerie

Pedro Lamy

Matthew Selley

The Stewards