



2026 JAPANESE GRAND PRIX

27 - 29 March 2026

From	The Stewards	Document	33
To	The Team Manager, BWT Alpine F1 Team	Date	27 March 2026
		Time	17:21

The Stewards, having received a report from the Race Director, summoned (documents 27 & 28) and heard from the drivers and team representatives, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

No / Driver 43 - Franco Colapinto

Competitor BWT Alpine F1 Team

Time 15:08

Session Free Practice 2

Fact Car 43 impeded Car 3 into turn 15.

Infringement Breach of Article B4.1.1 of the FIA F1 Regulations.

Decision Driver: Warning.

Reason The Stewards heard from the driver of Car 43 (Franco Colapinto), the driver of Car 3 (Max Verstappen), team representatives and reviewed video, team radio and in-car video evidence.

Car 43 was weaving across the track warming tyres on the straight between turns 14 and 15 when Car 3 approached at high speed. Team radio confirmed that the Driver of Car 43 had received progressive warnings from the team that Car 3 was behind and closing. When Car 3 arrived, Car 43 stopped weaving but remained on the racing line and then accelerated but the closing speed of the two cars was such that the Driver of Car 3 had to abandon his push lap.

The Driver of Car 43 candidly acknowledged that he had impeded Car 3. He said that he had misjudged the closing speed and accelerated to attempt to prevent the impeding but had insufficient energy to do so. The Driver of Car 3 said that he expected Car 43 to move to the left and when he saw that wasn't happening, he abandoned his lap.

The Stewards determined that the Driver of Car 43 unnecessarily impeded Car 3 and impose the usual penalty for such an infringement in a Free Practice session of a warning.

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.

Gerd Ennser

Matthew Selley

Zhou Xiaoxu

Derek Warwick

Kazuhiro Tsuge

The Stewards