



INTERNATIONAL SPORTING CODE OF THE IOA

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Article I – General Principles

1.1 INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS OF OFF-ROAD MOTORSPORTS

- 1.1.1** The IOA shall be the sole international sporting authority entitled to make and enforce regulations based on the fundamental principles of safety and sporting fairness, for the encouragement and control of offroad Competitions, and to organize IOA International Championships.
- 1.1.2** The IOA shall be the final international court of appeal for the settlement of disputes arising therefrom.
- 1.1.3** To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, neither the IOA nor any of its officers, agents, employees, directors or officials shall be liable to any other party for any claim, cost, damage or loss resulting from any action, decision, or omission by the IOA and/or its officers, agents, employees, directors or officials in connection with their duties, except for willful misconduct or fraud.

1.2 INTERNSTIONAL SPORTING CODE

- 1.2.1** So that the above powers may be exercised in a fair and equitable manner the IOA has drawn up the International Sporting Code, which includes all appendices thereto.
- 1.2.2** The purpose of the Code is to regulate, encourage and facilitate motor sport.
- 1.2.3** It will never be enforced to prevent or impede a competitor, except where the IOA concludes that this is necessary for the safe, fair, or orderly conduct of offroad motor sport.

1.3 ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE SUBMISSION TO THE REGULATIONS

- 1.3.1** Any person, or group of persons, organizing a Competition or taking part therein:
 - a) Shall be deemed to be acquainted with the statutes and regulations of the IOA and the national regulations.
 - b) Shall undertake to submit themselves without reserve to the above and to the decisions of the sporting authority and to the consequences resulting therefrom.
- 1.3.2** In case of non-compliance with these provisions, any person or group which organizes a Competition or takes part therein, may have the License which has been issued to them withdrawn, and any manufacturer may be excluded

from the IOA Championships on a temporary or permanent basis. The IOA will state reasons for its decisions.

- 1.3.3** If a vehicle is found not to comply with the applicable technical regulations, it shall be no defense to claim that no performance advantage was obtained.

Article II – Competitions – General Conditions

2.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

2.1.1 General Application of the Code.

All Competitions conducted and sanctioned by the IOA are governed by the Code.

2.1.2 Organization of Competitions.

Competitions may be organized by selected promoters by vote at the General Assembly

2.1.3 Official Documents.

- a) For all Competitions except Record Attempts, unless provided for within specific IOA regulations, official documents must be drawn up, among which must always include the Supplementary Regulations, an Entry form, and an Official Program. In addition, Provisional and Final Classifications must be published for each free and qualifying practice, heat, and race.
- b) If any condition contained in these official documents is contrary to the Code, it shall be of no effect.

2.1.4 Statement to be made on all documents concerning a Competition.

All Supplementary Regulations, Official Programs, and Entry forms relating to any Competition shall clearly bear the following statement: “Held under IOA International Sporting Code including Appendices.

2.1.5 Unrecognized Competitions.

- a) Any Competition or proposed Competition not organized in conformity with the Code or with the Statutes shall be considered as not being recognized.
- b) If such a Competition is included in an Event for which an Organizing Permit has been granted, the Organizing Permit shall be invalid.
- c) Such a Competition may in no way serve to qualify Competitors to take part in Championship, cup, trophy, challenge, or series validly registered on the International Sporting Calendar.

2.1.6 Postponement or cancellation of a Competition.

- a) A competition may only be postponed or cancelled for reasons of Force Majeure or safety, or if provision for doing so has been made in the applicable regulations.

- b) In the event of postponement for more than 24 hours or cancellation, entry fees shall be returned.

2.1.7 Start and end of a Competition.

- a) A Competition is considered to have begun as from the time scheduled for the beginning of administrative checking and/or scrutineering.
- b) A Competition shall end upon expiry of one or other of the following time limits, whichever is the later
 - Time limit for protests or appeals or the end of any hearings.
 - End of post-event scrutineering conducted in accordance with the Code.

2.1.8 No Competition which is or purports to be part of an International Championship, cup, trophy, challenge, or series not recognized by the IOA can be entered on the International Sporting Calendar.

2.1.9 For any Competition open to the IOA formula and categories or groups such as defined in the Code, all the vehicles participating must comply in all respects with the IOA technical regulations, and the official clarifications and interpretations of these regulations provided by the IOA.

2.2 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

2.2.1 International Speed Competitions.

To claim international status. A Speed Competition must satisfy all the following conditions:

- a) For International Offroad Competitions, all the provisions of the relevant Articles hereinafter must be applied.
- b) All Competitors and Drivers admitted taking part must hold an appropriate international license.
- c) The Competition, other than Record Attempts, must be listed on the International Sporting Calendar.

2.3 CHAMPIONSHIPS, CUP, THROPHY, CHALLENGE AND SERIES

2.3.1 International Championships, Cup, Trophy, Challenge, and series.

- a) Only the IOA may authorize an International Offroad Championship, Cup, Trophy, Challenge, or series.
- b) International Offroad Championships, Cup, Trophy, Challenge, or series may only be organized by the IOA, or by another body with written consent of the IOA. In this case, the Organizer of a Championship has the same rights and duties as the organizer of a Competition.

2.4 PARC FERME

- 2.4.1** Inside the Parc Ferme, only the officials assigned may enter. No operation, checking, tuning, or repair is allowed unless authorized by the same officials or by the applicable regulations.
- 2.4.2** The Parc Ferme is compulsory in those Competitions in which scrutineering is provided for.
- 2.4.3** The applicable regulations of the Competition shall specify the place where Parc(s) Ferme(s) will be set up.
- 2.4.4** The control areas and regrouping areas will be considered Parc Ferme. No repairs or assistance may take place within these control areas, unless otherwise specified in the applicable regulations.
- 2.4.5** The surveillance shall be conducted by officials, appointed by the Organizers, who are responsible for the operation of the Parc Ferme and only they are authorized to give orders to the Competitors.

2.5 LICENSE

2.5.1 Certificate of registration for the staff of Competitors entered in an IOA World Championship

- 2.5.1.1** Any person performing all or part of the following roles on behalf of a competitor must be duly registered with the IOA:
 - a) Chief executive officer: person in charge of the most important executive decisions for the Competitor.
 - b) Chief financial officer: the person responsible for ensuring that the Competitor complies with the World Championship financial regulations.
 - c) Team Principle: person in charge of the most important decisions for the Competitor.
 - d) Sporting director: the person responsible for ensuring that the Competitor complies with the World Championship sporting regulations.
 - e) Technical director: the person responsible for ensuring that the Competitor complies with the World Championship technical regulations.
 - f) Team manager: the person holding the operational responsibility of the Competitor and the Competitions.
 - g) Race engineer or equivalent (two per Competitor): the person responsible for the Competitor's Automobiles.
 - h) The applicable regulations may provide those additional members of the Competitors' staff, performing other roles than those referred to above, must be duly registered with the IOA.

- 2.5.1.2** Any duly registered member of a Competitor's staff shall be considered as a Participant.
- 2.5.1.3** When applying to enter an IOA World Championship, the Competitor must communicate to the IOA the list of the members of their staff who are to be registered as Competitor's Staff by signing the form drawn up specifically for that purpose.
- 2.5.1.4** Each duly registered member of the Competitor's staff will be given, via the Competitor, a certificate of registration with the IOA, a document that is drawn up and issued by the IOA and that remains the property of the IOA.
- 2.5.1.5** The registration must be renewed annually from the 1st of January of each year.
- 2.5.1.6** The IOA has the right to withhold and to cancel the registration of any person who has committed a breach of the rules. Reasons must be given for any such decision.
- 2.5.1.7** The IOA has the right to deny, temporarily or definitively, any duly registered member of a competitor's staff the right to access the Reserved Areas at Competitions forming part of any IOA World Championship.
- 2.5.1.8** If a change in the Competitor's organization leads to a modification of the list of members of their staff who must be registered with the IOA, the Competitor must inform the IOA of this within the 7 days following that change and submit an updated list within the same deadline, while returning to the IOA the certificates of registration of the persons who have ceased to perform their role.

Article III – Competitions – Organizational Details

3.1 NECESSARY ORGANIZING PERMIT

A Competition must have an Organizing Permit issued by the IOA.

3.2 APPLICATION FOR AN ORGANIZING PERMIT

- 3.2.1** Each application for an Organizing Permit shall be sent to the IOA with the following information: draft of the Supplementary Regulations for each Competition of the Event.

- 3.2.2** In the case of the IOA having fixed a fee beforehand for the issue of an Organizing Permit, application must be accompanied by that fee, which will be reimbursed if the Organizing Permit is not granted.

3.3 ISSUING OF ORGANIZING PERMIT

An Organizer who makes an application for an Organizing Permit shall be entitled to have that Organizing Permit granted if he meets the criteria set out in the Code and the applicable sporting and technical rules of the IOA.

3.4 COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Wherever the Competition takes place, no Organizing Permit shall be granted by the IOA unless the Organizer obtains, or undertakes to obtain, the relevant permission from the competent local authorities.

3.5 MAIN INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

- 3.5.1** Nomination of the Organizer(s).
- 3.5.2** The name, nature, and definition of the proposed Competition(s).
- 3.5.3** A statement that the Event is to be held under the Code and under the rules of the IOA.
- 3.5.4** Place and date of the Event.
- 3.5.5** A full description of the proposed Competitions (length and direction of the course, classes and categories of vehicles admitted, fuel, restriction in number of Entries, if such limitation exists, and/or in the number of vehicles allowed to start).
- 3.5.6** All useful information concerning Entries (address to which they are to be sent, dates and hours of opening and closing, amount of fee, if such exist).
- 3.5.7** All relevant information concerning insurance.
- 3.5.8** The dates, times, and nature of Starts, with indication of Handicaps, if any.
- 3.5.9** Reminder of clauses of the Code.
- 3.5.10** Manner in which classification shall be established.
- 3.5.11** The place and time of the publication of the Provisional and Final Classifications. Should it be impossible for the Organizers to publish the classifications as stated, they shall issue, at the time and place fixed, accurate details concerning the measures they intend to take regarding the classifications.
- 3.5.12** A detailed list of prizes.
- 3.5.13** A reminder of the clauses of the Code concerning protest.
- 3.5.14** The names of the stewards and of the other officials.

- 3.5.15** The locations of the official notice boards or the digital notice board.
- 3.5.16** A provision for postponement or cancellation of a Competition, if applicable.

3.6 AMENDMENTS TO SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

No amendments shall be made to the Supplementary Regulations after the beginning of the period for receiving Entries, unless all Competitors make unanimous agreement already entered, or by decision of the stewards. Subject to prior agreement of the IOA, amendments restricted to the safe and orderly conduct of the Event may be made by the Organizer before the start of the Competition concerned.

3.7 MAIN INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM

- 3.7.1** A statement that the Event is to be held under the Code.
- 3.7.2** Place and date of the Event.
- 3.7.3** A brief description and the timetable of the proposed Competitions.
- 3.7.4** Names of Competitors and Drivers with the numbers allocated to their vehicles.
- 3.7.5** The Handicap, if any.
- 3.7.6** A detailed list of prizes.
- 3.7.7** The names of the stewards and of the other officials.

3.8 ENTRY

- 3.8.1** An Entry compels the Competitor to take part in the Competition in which they have accepted to run, except in case of duly established Force Majeure.
- 3.8.2** It also binds the Organizer to fulfill, for the Competitor, all the conditions upon which the Entry was made, the only reservation being that the Competitor must use his best endeavors to participate in the Competition.

3.9 RECEIPT OF ENTRIES

- 3.9.1** Once the IOA has agreed to issue an Organizing Permit for an Event, the Organizing Committee may receive Entries.
- 3.9.2** **Format of Entries.**
Final Entries shall be made in writing in the format required by the Organizing Committee which shall provide for a statement of the name and address of the Competitor and of the Drivers nominated, if necessary, together with License numbers of the Competitor and Drivers. The

Supplementary Regulations may, however, provide for an additional period for the nomination of Drivers.

3.9.3 Payment of Entry fees.

If an Entry fee is provided for in the Supplementary Regulations, any Entry not accompanied by this fee shall be invalid.

3.10 RESPECT OF ENTRIES

3.10.1 Any dispute between a Competitor and the Organizer regarding an Entry shall be judged by the IOA.

3.10.2 If the dispute is not resolved before the date of the Competition concerned, any Competitor who, having been entered, or any Driver who, having accepted to take part in that Competition, does not run, will be immediately suspended internationally (temporary withdrawal of their License), unless the Competitor pays a deposit, the amount of which shall be fixed by the IOA.

3.10.3 The payment of this deposit does not imply that a competitor or a Driver may substitute one Competition for another.

3.11 CLOSING OF ENTRIES

3.11.1 Dates and times for the closing of Entries must be mentioned in Supplementary Regulations.

3.11.2 As regards International Competitions, closing of Entries must take place at least 7 days prior to the date fixed for the Event. For other Competitions, the limit may be reduced at the discretion of the IOA.

3.12 ENTRY MADE BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

3.12.1 Entry may be made by any electronic means of communication provided it is dispatched before the time limit fixed for the closing of Entries and, if necessary, the required Entry fee is lodged concurrently.

3.12.2 The time of sending shown on electronic communication (e.g., email) will be used as conclusive evidence of the time of lodgment of the Entry.

3.13 ENTRY CONTAINING A FALSE STATEMENT

3.13.1 Any Entry which contains a false statement shall be considered invalid.

3.13.2 The lodgment of such an Entry shall be deemed a breach of the Code. Moreover, the Entry fee may be forfeited.

3.14 REFUSAL OF ENTRY

In the case of an Entry for an International Competition being refused by the Organizing Committee, the latter must notify the applicant of such refusal no later than 2 days after the Entry closing date and not less than 5 days before the beginning of the Competition, stating the grounds for such a refusal.

3.15 PUBLISHING OF ENTRIES

- 3.15.1** No Entry may be published unless the Organizers have received a duly completed Entry form accompanied by the Entry fee where applicable.
- 3.15.2** Competitors entered conditionally shall be designated as such when Entries are published.

3.16 ENTRY OF AN AUTOMOBILE

- 3.16.1** The same Automobile shall not be entered more than once in the same Competition.
- 3.16.2** In exceptional circumstances, the IOA may, authorize more than one Entry of the same Automobile in the same Competition, so long as the same driver only once drives it.

3.17 OFFICIAL LIST OF ENTRIES

The Organizer must send to the IOA, and make available to each Competitor, the official list of Entries accepted in the Competition at least 48 hours before the beginning of the Event, except where Entries close after this time, in which case the official list must be made available to each Competitor prior to the start of the Competition.

3.18 RESERVED AREAS

To gain access to the Reserved Areas, a person must hold a specific authorization or a pass.

Article IV – Courses

4.1 APPROVAL OF COURSES

- 4.2** Courses may be laid out by the Organizer but must be submitted for approval by the IOA, subject to the driver and safety commission approval. With the request for such approval a detailed itinerary giving the exact distances to be covered shall be submitted.

4.3 LICENSE FOR A COURSE

- 4.3.1** The organizer or promoter must apply, to the IOA, for a license for a permanent or temporary course.
- 4.3.2** The IOA may license a course for off-road racing and will appoint an inspector to ensure the course meets the required standards.
- 4.3.3** The IOA, after consulting with the competent organizer or promoter and its inspector, may refuse to grant or withdraw a license but shall state reasons for any such withdrawal or refusal.
- 4.3.4** Information to be given on course license:
- a) A license granted by the IOA shall state the length of the course and a grade indicating the categories of racing cars for which the license is valid.
 - b) If appropriate, it shall indicate whether the course is approved for attempts at World Records.

4.4 CONDITIONS TO BE FULFILLED FOR BOTH PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY COURSES

The conditions to be fulfilled in the case of both permanent and temporary courses are periodically laid down by the IOA.

4.5 DISPLAY OF A COURSE LICENSE

A course license, long as it is in force, shall be displayed in a prominent position at the course.

Article V – Pre-running, Qualifying, Starts, and Finishes

5.1 PRE-RUNNING

- 5.1.1** Pre-running will be determined by the promoter and/or organizer.
- 5.1.2** For events where pre-running is available, promoters will determine the times for each team when they can pre-run the course.

- 5.1.3** For events with no pre-running, pre-running may take place up to 10 days before the event or until the course is marked. After the course is marked, no pre-running of any kind may take place. Failure to follow these instructions may result in a penalty, disqualification, and/or suspension, subject to the IOA.

5.2 QUALIFYING

- 5.2.1** Qualifying must be held before the start of the competition.
- 5.2.2** Qualifying starts will be determined by the promoter and/or organizer.
- 5.2.3** If a competitor fails to qualify, they will start at the back of their class.

5.3 STARTS

- 5.3.1** Competition starts will be determined by the promoter and/or organizer.
- 5.3.2** Competitors must start in qualifying order, including applied penalties.
- 5.3.3** All vehicles must stop precisely at the position indicated by the official and may subsequently not move forward, backward, or outside of that position until the start signal is given.
- 5.3.4** Any false start shall be deemed to be a breach of these regulations and may result in a penalty, subject to the IOA.
- 5.3.5** Any competitor that misses their start time will start at the back of the class.

5.4 FINISHES

- 5.4.1** A race is considered to finish when the time allotted for the race elapses.
- 5.4.2** Competitors must finish the required number of laps to be considered a finisher and not receive a DNF (did not finish), subject to Article 5.4.3.
- 5.4.3** The winner of each class shall be the entrant that finished the race with the lowest elapsed time or the most laps within the event time limit. The entrant must also meet all other criteria to be declared the official winner.
- 5.4.4** Competitors must go through all checkpoints and virtual checkpoints (VCP). Penalties may be applied for missing a checkpoint or VCP.

Passing may only take place no farther than fifty feet from the center line of the racecourse.

Article VI – Competitors and Drivers

6.1 REGISTRATION OF COMPETITORS AND DRIVERS

- 6.1.1** Any person wishing to qualify as a competitor or as a driver shall make a formal application for a license to the IOA.
- 6.1.2** If no Competitor is listed on the entry application, the first driver is deemed also to be the competitor and must hold the two corresponding licenses.

6.2 REFUSAL OF LICENSE

- 6.2.1** The IOA may refuse to issue a license to an applicant who does not meet the criteria applicable to the license.
- 6.2.2** The reasons for any such refusal shall be stated.

6.3 PERIOD DURING WHICH A LICENSE IS VALID

Licenses shall expire on the 31st of December each year.

6.4 FEE CHARGEABLE FOR A LICENSE

A fee may be charged by the IOA for the issuing of a license, and that fee shall be fixed each by the IOA.

6.5 PRESENTATION OF LICENSE

A competitor or a driver at an event shall produce their license at the request of a duly authorized official of that event.

6.6 PSEUDONYM

- 6.6.1** If a license is requested under a pseudonym, special application shall be made to the IOA.
- 6.6.2** In such cases a license will be issued in the assumed name if approved.
- 6.6.3** The license-holder, for so long as they are registered under a pseudonym, shall not take part in any competition under any other name.
- 6.6.4** An alteration of a pseudonym shall necessitate the same procedure being followed as for the original name.
- 6.6.5** A person registered under a pseudonym shall not revert to the use of their own name until they have obtained a new license under their own name from the IOA.

6.7 CHANGE OF ENTERED DRIVER

- 6.7.1** A change of entered driver may be made prior to the close of entries provided this is not prohibited in any applicable regulations.
- 6.7.2** A change of entered driver may be made after the close of entries only with the approval of the organizing committee and only if it does not involve change of competitor.

6.8 IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

During a competition, each vehicle shall carry prominently displayed one or more numbers or marks in conformity with the relevant provisions of the code, unless otherwise provided for in any applicable regulations.

6.9 RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMPETITOR

- 6.9.1** The competitor shall be responsible for all acts or omissions on the part of any person taking part in, or providing a service in connection with, a competition or a championship on their behalf, including in particular their employees, direct or indirect, their drivers, mechanics, consultants, service providers, or passengers, as well as any person to whom the competitor has allowed access to the reserved areas.
- 6.9.2** In addition, each of these people shall be equally responsible for any breach of the code, of the regulations of the IOA if appropriate.
- 6.9.3** Upon request of the IOA, the competitor must provide the IOA with the full list of persons taking part in, or providing a service in connection with, a competition or a championship on their behalf.

6.10 UNAUTHORIZED SUBSTITUTION OF ONE COMPETITION FOR ANOTHER

Any competitor having entered themselves or any driver having undertaken to drive in any Competition who does not take part in that Competition and takes part in another competition on the same day at some other place shall be suspended (temporary withdrawal of license) as from the beginning of the latter competition, for such time as the IOA may deem fit.

6.11 IOA PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT POST-TERM RESTRICTIONS

A competitor entered in an IOA championship may not engage or use the services of a former President of the IOA or a former Vice-President of the IOA (whether as an employee, independent contractor, consultant, or otherwise) until six months have elapsed since the date that they ceased to hold the post of President or Vice-President of the IOA (as applicable), and in any event the aforementioned

competitor may not, without time limit, obtain, benefit from or use confidential information obtained by a former President or Vice-President of the IOA during their mandate.

Article VII – Vehicles

7.1 CLASSIFICATIONS OF VEHICLES

Vehicles for competitions may be classified by type and/or the capacity of their power plant, of whatever type, and competitions may be restricted, by the relevant regulations or record classifications, to vehicles meeting such restrictions.

7.2 HOMOLOGATION OF VEHICLES

- 7.2.1** Vehicles may be required to be homologated in accordance with the relevant technical or sporting regulations.
- 7.2.2** Once completed and accepted by the IOA, the homologation form shall be relied upon, in accordance with the regulations, for scrutineering the vehicle.
- 7.2.3** Vehicles must comply with their respective homologation documents, except in the case of vehicles adapted for disabled drivers in possession of a certificate of adaptations issued by the IOA. In that case, modifications to the vehicle in accordance with the adaptations specified in the certificate of adaptations are authorized.
- 7.2.4** Any error or omission made by the entity which submitted the homologation request will not exempt a non-compliance from this regulation.

7.3 DISQUALIFICATION, SUSPENSION OR EXCLUSION OF A PARTICULAR VEHICLE

The IOA may disqualify, suspend, or exclude from one or more competitions a particular vehicle because of a breach of the code or regulations by the competitor or the driver or the manufacturer of the vehicle or their authorized representative.

7.4 DANGEROUS CONSTRUCTION

The stewards may disqualify a vehicle whose construction is deemed to be dangerous.

Article VIII – Officials

8.1 LIST OF OFFICIALS

- 8.1.1** The term “official” comprises the following persons, who may have assistants:
- a) The stewards
 - b) The race director
 - c) The clerk of the course
 - d) The secretary of the event
 - e) Timekeepers
 - f) Scrutineers
 - g) Medical officer (duties to be defined in the relevant sporting regulations)
 - h) Safety officer (duties to be defined in the relevant sporting regulations)
 - i) Track marshals
 - j) Flag marshals
 - k) Finish line judges
 - l) Judges of fact
 - m) Starters
 - n) Environmental officer (duties to be defined in the relevant sporting regulations)
- 8.1.2** The following officials may be appointed for the IOA championship competitions, and their duties will be defined in the relevant sporting regulations:
- a) Sporting delegate
 - b) Safety delegate
 - c) Medical delegate
 - d) Technical delegate
 - e) Media delegate

8.2 STRUCTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE OFFICIALS

- 8.2.1** At any competition there shall be a panel of at least three stewards and a clerk of the course, and in the case of competitions decided wholly or partly by time, one or more timekeepers.
- 8.2.2** The stewards officiate as a body under the authority of a chairperson expressly designated in the supplementary regulations or any applicable regulations.
- 8.2.3** The chairperson of the panel of the stewards is responsible for planning the meetings and ensuring that arrangements are respected. He is also responsible for establishing agendas and drawing up the minutes of the meeting.
- 8.2.4** In the event of a split ballot, the chairperson shall have the casting vote.

- 8.2.5** Except where otherwise provided for, the stewards are on duty for the duration of the competition as defined in the code.
- 8.2.6** The clerk of the course shall remain in close contact with the stewards throughout the event to ensure its smooth running.

8.3 NOMINATION OF OFFICIALS

- 8.3.1** At least one of the stewards shall be nominated by the promoter and/or organizer.
- 8.3.2** The other officials shall be nominated by the IOA.

8.4 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No official, in particular, stewards, race directors, clerks of the course, scrutineers, secretaries of the event, chief timekeepers and, where appropriate, the technical delegates, shall have, or appear to have, financial or personal interests that may detract from their ability to perform their duties with integrity and in an independent and diligent manner.

8.5 DEMARCATION OF DUTIES

- 8.5.1** Officials shall not, in any event, perform any duties other than those for which they were appointed.
- 8.5.2** They shall not be eligible to participate, neither as a competitor nor as a driver, in any competition taking place at any event at which they are acting as an official.

8.6 REMUNERATION OF OFFICIALS

- 8.6.1** Except in the case of a specific decision taken by the IOA, the stewards shall act in an honorary capacity.
- 8.6.2** Other officials may be remunerated for their services in accordance with a scale drawn up by the General Assembly of the IOA.

8.7 DUTIES OF THE STEWARDS

- 8.7.1** The stewards will not be in any way responsible for the organization of the event and shall not have any executive duties in connection therewith.
- 8.7.2** It follows, therefore, that in the conducting of their duties, they do not incur any responsibility except to the promoter and to the IOA under whose regulations they are acting.

- 8.7.3** The stewards shall sign and send to the IOA a closing report as soon as practicable after the close of the event. This report will include the results of each competition together with particulars of all protests lodged and disqualifications they may have made with their recommendations as to any decisions which may have to be taken for a suspension or an exclusion.
- 8.7.4** In an event comprising of several competitions, there may be different stewards for each competition.

8.8 AUTHORITY OF THE STEWARDS

- 8.8.1** The stewards shall have supreme authority for the enforcement of the code, of the regulations of the IOA if appropriate, of national rules and supplementary regulations and of official programs within the framework of the event for which they are appointed.
- 8.8.2** They may settle any matter which might arise during an event, subject to the right of appeal provided for in the code.
- 8.8.3** They may also rule on any alleged breach of the applicable regulations which occurred outside the framework of any event, provided that the event for which they are appointed immediately follows the discovery of this alleged breach.
- 8.8.4** Within the framework of their duties, they notably:
- a) Shall decide what penalty to enforce in the event of a breach of the regulations.
 - b) May amend the supplementary regulations.
 - c) May alter the composition or the number of heats.
 - d) May authorize a new start in case of dead heats.
 - e) May accept or refuse any correction proposed by a judge of fact, it being understood that the stewards may overrule judges of fact.
 - f) May impose penalties.
 - g) May decide to suspend any penalty.
 - h) May order the removal and/or eject a person from all or part of the reserved areas of an event and/or deny a person any further access to the same.
 - i) May pronounce disqualifications.
 - j) May amend the classifications.
 - k) May prohibit from competing and driver or any vehicle which they consider to be dangerous, or which is reported to them by the clerk of the course as being dangerous.
 - l) May apply a penalty on any competitor or driver whom they consider as, or who is reported to them by the clerk of the course or by the organizing committee as being ineligible to take part, or whom they consider as being guilty of improper conduct or unfair practice.

- m) May order the removal from the reserved areas of any competitor or driver who refuses to obey the order of a responsible official.
- n) May postpone a competition in the event of Force Majeure or for serious safety reasons.
- o) May modify the official program if requested to do so by the clerk of the course or the organizer in the interest of safety.
- p) Except for the chair of the panel of stewards, may operate remotely within the framework of an IOA world championship to the extent they are prevented from doing so by reason of Force Majeure.
- q) May appoint one, or, if necessary, several substitutes in the event of the absence of one or several of the stewards, especially when the presence of three stewards is indispensable. In exceptional circumstances, the substitute(s) may operate remotely, however within the framework of an IOA championship, cup, challenge, trophy, or series, at least one of the international stewards designated by the IOA shall attend in person.
- r) May take the decision to stop temporarily or permanently, all or part of a competition.
- s) Shall declare the classifications and results to be final.
- t) May order technical checks to be conducted.
- u) May, at the request of the IOA or on their own initiative, request that alcohol testing be conducted, define the number of drivers and officials to be assessed and select the drivers and officials to undergo such alcohol testing, in accordance with the applicable regulations.
- v) For those championships, cups, trophies, challenges, and series in which a race director officiates, matters may be submitted to them by the race director so that they may impose the sanctions listed above.
- w) In cases where a decision must be taken after an event, for whatsoever reason, the stewards may delegate their authority to the subsequent panel of stewards of one of the subsequent events for the same championship, cup, trophy, challenge, or series or alternatively to a panel of stewards assembled for this purpose and which shall be selected by the authority responsible for the selection of the original panel.
- x) The stewards may use any video or electronic systems to assist them in reaching a decision.

8.8.5 All classifications and results, as well as all decisions issued by the officials, will be posted on the official notice board along with the time of publication, or on the digital notice board (if any). If posted on both the official and digital notice boards, the time of publication on the official notice board shall take precedence.

8.8.6 After notification of the stewards' decision to the parties, the stewards who render such decision, on their own initiative or at the request of one of the

parties, can correct any clerical error contained in the reasons and/or the operative part of their decision, without however altering or modifying its meaning. However, the deadline to notify the intention to appeal starts as from the date of the notification of the original decision and not the corrected one in line with this provision.

8.9 DUTIES OF THE RACE DIRECTOR

- 8.9.1** A race director may be designated for the entire duration of each championship, cup, trophy, challenge, or series.
- 8.9.2** The clerk of the course shall work in permanent consultation with the race director.
- 8.9.3** The race director shall have overridden authority in the following matters and the clerk of the course may give orders in respect thereof only with his express agreement:
 - a) The control of pre-running and the race, adherence to the timetable and, if he deems it necessary, the making of any proposal to the stewards to modify the timetable in accordance with the code or sporting regulations.
 - b) The stopping of any vehicle in accordance with the code or sporting regulations.
 - c) The stopping of pre-running or suspension of the race in accordance with the sporting regulations if they deem it unsafe to continue and ensuring that the correct restart procedure is conducted.
 - d) The starting procedure.
 - e) The use of the safety car.
- 8.9.4** If it is necessary for their duties and responsibilities to differ from the above, these duties will be set out in the relevant sporting regulations.

8.10 DUTIES OF THE CLERK OF THE COURSE

- 8.10.1** The clerk of the course may also be the secretary of the event and may have various assistants.
- 8.10.2** In the case of an event comprising of several competitions, there may be a different clerk of the course for each competition.
- 8.10.3** The clerk of the course is responsible for conducting the event in accordance with the applicable regulations.
- 8.10.4** They shall, where appropriate and in conjunction with the race director:
 - a) Generally keep order, in conjunction with such military and police authorities as have undertaken to police an event and who are more immediately responsible for public safety.
 - b) Ensure that all officials are at their posts.

- c) Ensure that all officials are provided with the necessary information to enable them to perform their duties.
- d) Control competitors and their vehicles and prevent any disqualified, suspended, or excluded competitor or driver from taking part in a competition for which they are not eligible.
- e) Ensure that each vehicle, and if necessary, each competitor, carries the proper identification numbers in accordance with those in the official program.
- f) Ensure that each vehicle is driven by the proper driver, marshal the vehicles in such categories and classes as are required.
- g) Bring the vehicles up to the starting line in the right order and, if necessary, give the start.
- h) Convey to the stewards any proposal to modify the official program or regarding the improper conduct of or breach of rule by a competitor.
- i) Receive protests and transmit them immediately to the stewards, who shall take the necessary action thereon.
- j) Collect the reports of the timekeepers, scrutineers, and course marshals together with such other official information as may be necessary for the determination of the results.
- k) Prepare, or ask the secretary of the event to prepare the data for the stewards' closing report regarding the competition(s) for which they were responsible.
- l) Supervise access to the reserved areas to make sure that no person who, as reasonably determined by the IOA, appears to have committed a breach of the code and regulations has access to these reserved areas.

8.11 DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE EVENT

- 8.11.1** The secretary of the event shall be responsible for the organization of the event and all announcements required in connection therewith and is entrusted with all checking of all documents relating to competitors and drivers.
- 8.11.2** They shall ensure that the various officials are familiar with their duties and provided with the necessary equipment.
- 8.11.3** If necessary, they shall second the clerk of the course in the preparation of the closing report for each competition.

8.12 DUTIES OF TIMEKEEPERS

- 8.12.1** The principal duties of timekeepers shall be:

- a) At the beginning of the event, report to the clerk of the course, who will give them the necessary instructions.
- b) To start the competition, whenever instructed to do so by the clerk of the course.
- c) To use for timing only such apparatus as is approved by the IOA, or, if it is necessary to take times accurate to within 1/1000th of a second, approved by the IOA.
- d) To declare the time taken by each vehicle to complete the course.
- e) To prepare and sign according to their individual responsibility their reports and to send them, accompanied by all necessary documents, to the clerk of the course.
- f) To send, on request, their original time sheets either to the stewards or to the IOA.
- g) Not to communicate any times or results except to the stewards and the clerk of the course except when otherwise instructed by the officials.

8.13 DUTIES OF SCRUTINEERS

- 8.13.1** Scrutineers are entrusted with all checking of vehicles and may delegate their duties to assistants.
- 8.13.2** They shall:
 - a) Conduct these checks either before the event if requested by the IOA or the organizing committee or during or after the event if requested by the clerk of the course and/or the stewards, except if otherwise specified in the applicable sporting regulations.
 - b) Use such checking instruments as may be specified or approved by the IOA.
 - c) Not communicate any official information to any person except to the IOA, the organizing committee, the stewards, and the clerk of the course.
 - d) Prepare and sign, under their own responsibility, their reports and hand them to the authority among those mentioned above which instructed them to draw them up.

8.14 DUTIES OF TRACK MARSHALS AND FLAG MARSHALS

- 8.14.1** The track marshals shall occupy, along the course, posts assigned to them by the organizing committee.
- 8.14.2** As soon as an event begins, each track marshal is under the orders of the clerk of the course, to whom they shall immediately report by any means at their disposal (telephone, signals, courier, etc.) all incidents or accidents which might occur along the section for which they are responsible.

8.14.3 Flag marshals are specifically entrusted with flag signaling. They may also be track marshals.

8.14.4 Track marshals must give the clerk of the course a report on the incidents or accidents recorded by them.

8.15 DUTIES OF JUDGES OF FACT

8.15.1 Start line judges.

- a) One or several judges of fact may be appointed by the organizing committee to supervise the starts.
- b) Start line judges shall immediately indicate to the clerk of the course any false starts which may have occurred.

8.15.2 Finish line judges.

In a competition where a decision must be given as to the order in which vehicles cross a finish line, a finish line judge shall be nominated to give such a decision. For a competition decided wholly or partly by time, this shall be the chief timekeeper.

8.15.3 Other judges.

In a competition in which a decision has to be made as to whether or not a vehicle has touched or crossed a given line, or as to any other fact laid down in the supplementary regulations or in any applicable regulations for the competition, one or several judges of fact shall be approved by the stewards, upon proposal of the organizer, to be responsible for one or several of these decisions.

8.15.4 Assistant judges.

Each of the above judges may have an assistant judge appointed to assist them, or in the case of absolute necessity to replace them, but in the event of disagreement, the judges of fact shall give the final decision themselves.

8.15.5 Mistakes.

If any judge considers that they have made a mistake they may correct it, subject to this correction being accepted by the stewards.

8.15.6 Facts to be judged.

The applicable regulations for the competition must indicate which facts are to be judged by the judges of fact.

8.15.7 The judges of fact must be named, and their names displayed on the official or digital notice board.

Article IX – Offenses or infringements and penalties

9.1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

9.1.1 Responsibility.

- a) Unless stated otherwise, offenses or infringements are punishable, whether they were committed intentionally or through negligence.
- b) Attempts to commit offenses or infringements are also punishable.
- c) Any natural or legal person who takes part in an offense or infringement, whether as instigator or as accomplice, is also punishable.

9.1.2 Limitation time of prosecution.

- a) The statutory limitation on the prosecution of infringements is five years.
- b) Prescription runs:
 - From the day on which the person committed the offense or infringement.
 - From the day of the last act, in the case of successive or repeated offenses or infringements.
 - From the day it stopped if the offense or infringement is continuous.
- c) However, in all cases where the offense or infringement has been concealed from the stewards or from the IOA's prosecuting body, prescription runs from the day on which the facts of the offense or infringement became known to the stewards of the IOA's prosecuting body.
- d) Prescription is interrupted by any act of prosecution or investigation conducted.

9.2 BREACH OF RULES

9.2.1 Any of the following offenses, in addition to any offenses specifically referred to previously or subsequently, shall be deemed to be a breach of these rules:

- a) All bribery or attempt, directly or indirectly, to bribe any person having official duties in relation to a competition or being employed in any manner in connection with a competition and the acceptance of, or offer to accept, any bribe by such an official or employee.
- b) Any action having as its object the entry or participation in a competition of a vehicle known to be ineligible, therefore.
- c) Any fraudulent conduct or any act prejudicial to the interests of any competition or to the interests of off-road motorsport.
- d) Any pursuit of an objective contrary or opposed to those of the IOA.
- e) Any refusal or failure to apply decisions of the IOA.

- f) Any words, deeds, or writings that have caused moral injury or loss to the IOA, its bodies, its members, or its executive officers, and more generally on the interest of off-road motorsport and on the values defended by the IOA.
- g) Any failure to cooperate in an investigation.
- h) Any unsafe act or failure to take reasonable measures, thus resulting in an unsafe situation.
- i) Failure to follow the instructions of the relevant officials for the safe and orderly conduct of the event.
- j) Failure to follow the IOA code of driving conduct on course.
- k) Any misconduct towards, but not limited to:
 - License-holders
 - Officials
 - Officers or members of the staff of the IOA
 - Members of the staff of the organizer or promoter
 - Members of the staff of a competitor
 - Suppliers of products or services to (or contractors or subcontractors to) any of the parties listed above.
 - Doping control officials or any other person involved in a doping control conducted.
- l) Any infringement of the principles of fairness in competition, behavior in an unsportsmanlike manner or attempt to influence the result of a competition in a way that is contrary to sporting ethics.
- m) Any public incitement to violence or hatred.
- n) Failure to comply with the instructions of the IOA regarding the appointment and participation of persons during official ceremonies at any competition counting towards an IOA championship.

9.3 PENALTIES

9.3.1 Any breach of the code, of the regulations of the IOA if appropriate, of the national rules, or of any supplementary regulations committed by any organizer, official, competitor, driver, participant, other license-holder, or other person or organization may be penalized.

9.3.2 The stewards may inflict penalties as indicated in the following articles.

9.3.3 The decisions of the stewards are immediately binding, subject to the following provisions:

- a) If a competitor appeals, excluding the cases cited below and when the intention of appeal is submitted outside of the applicable deadline, the penalty will be suspended, to determine the application of any handicap rule having an influence on participation in a later competition. The suspensive

effect resulting from the appeal does not allow the competitor and the driver to take part in the prize-giving or the podium ceremony, nor to appear in the final classifications published at the end of the competition, in any place other than that resulting from the application of the penalty. The rights of the competitor and of the driver will be re-established if they win their appeal before the appeal courts unless this is not possible due to passage of time.

- b) The decision of the stewards becomes immediately binding even in the event of an appeal, if it concerns a decision that is not subject to appeal pursuant to article 9.3.4 below or if it concerns:
 - Issues where the suspensive effect is likely to cause a further or ongoing safety issue, including, but not limited to, matters of vehicle safety.
 - Any breach of articles 9.2.1.b, 9.2.1.c, 9.2.1.e and 9.2.1.h
 - Questions of irregularity of entry by a competitor entering a competition
 - Questions in connection with advertising on vehicles
 - When, during the same competition, a further breach is committed justifying the disqualification of the same competitor.
 - c) The decision of the stewards as to whether the penalty should be suspended is not subject to appeal before the court of appeal.
- 9.3.4** Certain decisions are not subject to appeal. These include decisions to impose a drive-through penalty, a stop-and-go penalty, or other penalties as specified in the applicable sporting regulations as not being susceptible to appeal.

9.4 SCALE OF PENALTIES

9.4.1 Penalties may be inflicted as follows:

- a) Warning
- b) Reprimand (blame)
- c) Fine
- d) Obligation to accomplish some kind of work of public interest.
- e) Disallowance or deletion of a driver's race, qualifying and practice lap time(s)
- f) Drop of grid position(s)
- g) Time penalty
- h) Penalty lap(s)
- i) Drop of place(s) in the classification of the competition
- j) Drive-through penalty
- k) Stop-and-go or stop-and-go with a prescribed stop time.

- l) Disqualification
- m) Suspension
- n) Exclusion

9.4.2 Time penalty means a penalty expressed in minutes and/or seconds.

9.4.3 Penalties may be applied at subsequent competitions of the same championship, cup, trophy, challenge, or series.

9.4.4 Any one of the above penalties can only be inflicted after consideration of the evidence available and, in case of one of the last three, the party concerned must be summoned to give them the opportunity of presenting their defense.

9.4.5 For all the IOA championships, cups, challenges, trophies, or series, the stewards may also decide to impose the following penalties:

- a) Suspension for one or more competitions, withdrawal of points for the championship, cup, challenge, trophy, series.
- b) Points should not be deducted separately from drivers and competitors, save in exceptional circumstances.

9.4.6 The penalties referred to in articles 9.4.1 and 9.4.5 above may, where appropriate, be cumulated or applied with suspension of sentence.

9.4.7 The IOA may also directly impose bans on taking part or exercising a role, directly or indirectly, in competitions, events, or championships.

9.5 FINES

9.5.1 A fine may be inflicted on any competitor and on any driver, passenger, person, or organization as mentioned in article 9.3.1 of the code who does not comply with the requirements of any regulations or with any instruction of the officials of the event.

9.5.2 The infliction of a fine may be ordered by the IOA or by the stewards.

9.5.3 When these fines are inflicted by the stewards, they may not exceed a certain sum, which will be set each year by the IOA.

9.6 MAXIMUM FINE GIVEN BY THE STEWARDS

Until further notice, the maximum fine that shall be inflicted is \$200,000 dollars (two hundred thousand dollars).

9.7 LIABILITY TO PAY FINES

A competitor shall be responsible for the payment of any fine inflicted on their drivers, assistants, passengers, etc.

9.8 PAYMENT OF FINES

- 9.8.1** Fines shall be paid within forty-eight hours of their notification by means of any mode of payment, electronic included.
- 9.8.2** Any delay in making payment may entail suspension during the period when a fine remains unpaid.
- 9.8.3** Fines inflicted during a competition must be paid to the IOA.

9.9 DISQUALIFICATION

- 9.9.1** The stewards may pronounce a sentence of disqualification.
- 9.9.2** Disqualification from an entire competition entails the loss of entry fee, which shall accrue to the organizers.

9.10 SUSPENSION

- 9.10.1** A sentence of suspension, for as long as it remains in force, shall entail the loss of any right to take part in any capacity whatsoever in any competition within the governance of the IOA.
- 9.10.2** Suspension shall also render invalid any previous entry made for any competition which may take place during the term of such suspension and shall also entail the forfeiture of the fee payable for any such entry.
- 9.10.3** **Withdrawal of license.**
Any competitor or driver who is suspended shall hand back their license to the IOA which shall not return it to them until the period of suspension has expired.
- 9.10.4** Any delay in handing back the license to the IOA shall be added to the term of the suspension.
- 9.10.5** **Effects of suspension**
A sentence of suspension pronounced by the IOA shall apply only within IOA sanctioned events.

9.11 EXCLUSION

A sentence of exclusion can be pronounced only by the IOA and will be reserved for offenses of exceptional gravity.

9.12 STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR SUSPENSION OR EXCLUSION

In notifying sentences of suspension or exclusion to the person upon whom sentence is passed, it shall be necessary for the IOA to give its reasons for inflicting such penalty.

9.13 SUSPENSION OR EXCLUSION OF A VEHICLE

A sentence of suspension or exclusion may be pronounced on either a particular vehicle or on a make of vehicle.

9.14 LOSS OF AWARDS

Any competitor disqualified, suspended, or excluded during a competition will lose the right to obtain any of the awards assigned to the said competition.

9.15 AMENDMENT TO THE CLASSIFICATION AND AWARDS

In case of disqualification or suspension of a competitor during a competition, the stewards shall declare the resulting amendment in the placings and awards, and they shall decide whether the next competitor should be moved up in the classification.

9.16 PUBLICATION OF PENALTIES

9.16.1 The IOA shall have the right to publish or to have published a declaration stating that it has penalized any person, vehicle, or make of vehicle.

9.16.2 Without prejudice to any right to appeal any decision, persons referred to in such declaration shall have no right of legal action against the IOA or against any person publishing the said declaration.

9.17 REMISSION OF SENTENCE

9.18 The IOA shall have the right to remit the unexpired period of a sentence of suspension or to lift an exclusion under the conditions which it may determine.

Article X – Protests

10.1 RIGHT TO PROTEST

10.1.1 The right to protest lies only with a competitor.

- 10.1.2** Several competitors cannot lodge a joint protest.
- 10.1.3** A competitor wishing to protest more than one fellow competitor must lodge as many protests as there are competitors involved in the action concerned.

10.2 SUBJECT OF A PROTEST

A protest can be filed against:

- a) The entry of a competitor or driver
- b) The length of the course
- c) A handicap
- d) The make-up of a heat or final
- e) Any alleged error, irregularity, or breach of the regulations occurring during a competition.
- f) The alleged non-compliance of vehicles with the regulations
- g) The classification established at the end of the competition.

10.3 PROTEST TIME LIMIT

- 10.3.1** Entry of a competitor or driver
- No later than two hours after the closing time for the pre-event scrutineering of the vehicles.
- 10.3.2** Length of the course
- No later than two hours after the closing time for the pre-event scrutineering of the vehicles.
- 10.3.3** Handicap
- No later than one hour before the start of the competition or as specified in the applicable sporting regulations or supplementary regulations.
- 10.3.4** Make up of a heat or final.
- No later than thirty minutes after the publication of the make-up of a heat or final, unless specified otherwise in the applicable sporting regulations or supplementary regulations.
- 10.3.5** Any alleged error, irregularity, or breach of the regulations occurring during a competition.
- No later than thirty minutes after the publication of the provisional classification, except:
 - In circumstances where the stewards consider that compliance with the thirty-minute deadline would be impossible.
 - Unless specified otherwise in the applicable sporting regulations or supplementary regulations.

- 10.3.6** Protests referring to the alleged non-compliance of vehicles with the regulations.
- No later than thirty minutes after the publication of the provisional classification, except:
 - In circumstances where the stewards consider that compliance with the thirty-minute deadline would be impossible.
 - Unless specified otherwise in the applicable sporting regulations or supplementary regulations.
- 10.3.7** Classification established at the end of the competition.
- No later than thirty minutes after the publication of the provisional classification, except:
 - In circumstances where the stewards consider that compliance with the thirty-minute deadline would be impossible.
 - Unless specified otherwise in the applicable sporting regulations or supplementary regulations

10.4 LODGING OF PROTEST

- 10.4.1** Any protest shall be in writing and must specify:
- The relevant regulations
 - The concerns of the protesting party
 - And against whom the protest is lodged, when relevant.

Where multiple competitors are concerned, a separate protest must be filed against each competitor concerned.

Where multiple vehicles of the same competitor are concerned, a separate protest must be filed for each vehicle concerned.

- 10.4.2** Each protest must be accompanied by a deposit, the amount of which shall be set annually by the IOA. This deposit may only be returned if the protest is upheld unless fairness is required otherwise.
- 10.4.3** In the case of protests referring to the alleged non-compliance of vehicles with the regulations and requiring the dismantling and re-assembly of clearly defined parts of a vehicle, an additional deposit may be specified by the stewards on a proposal from the IOA technical delegate (if appointed) or the chief scrutineer. This additional deposit must be paid by the protester within one hour upon notification of the stewards (or, where appropriate, within such period as agreed by them) otherwise, the protest will be deemed inadmissible.
- 10.4.4** Protest deposits must be paid to the IOA.

10.5 TO WHOM ADDRESSED

- 10.5.1** Protests arising out of a competition shall be addressed to the chairperson of the stewards.
- 10.5.2** They shall be delivered to the clerk of the course or their assistant if such exist. In the absence of the clerk of the course or their assistant, such a protest should be delivered to the chairperson of the stewards.
- 10.5.3** Receipt of the protest shall be acknowledged in writing, with the time of receipt noted.