

October 5, 2023

To: JMMC Competition Sub-Committee

In response to a complaint brought by Mr. Douglas Gore on June 28, 2023 with regards to Online abuse and Racial harassment towards his son Thomas Gore. A disciplinary panel was convened consisting of Verdayne Wallace (Chair), Peter Clarke and Gordon McDowell. The panel has had meetings with the alleged protagonists and antagonists in this issue. The meetings were held separately to hear this complaint in its entirety and to allow for claims and for the response/justification from the accused.

The complainant has expressed a high degree of discomfort with the online stance of the accused and would require that the harshest possible action is to be employed. In the accused defense the idea of a cultural misunderstanding has been adduced. However, notwithstanding the local picture and the expressed lack of intent to be malicious, the incident cannot be ignored. Coupled with the FIA's stance on any hint of online abuse and racial harassment, all contexts must be considered.

Having considered all the available information we have concluded that what has occurred is indeed in poor taste, unprofessional and brings the sport into disrepute. The offensive nature of the postings which may have started out as innocent ribbing on a social media group has been escalated and is now in the public domain and has attracted international attention. We therefore are compelled to set an example and discourage any further use of social media in this manner. This was an off-track infringement of a social code which casts a very large shadow over motor sports in Jamaica and indeed the region.

We therefore suggest that the following actions be instituted as soon as possible

- A public apology in print and on social media to be issued
- Community service – possible high school talks on the dangers of online abuse

The above suggestions are by no means exhaustive and can form the basis for further sanction as deemed necessary by the JMMC. As you are well aware Section 12 of the FIA sporting code details a whole raft of applicable sanctions depending on the severity of the breach.

Sincerely



Verdayne Wallace – Chair of Disciplinary Panel



Peter Clarke

Gordon McDowell