



The finish area of a hill climb or rally stage can be spectacular for fans but it can also be dangerous if not managed correctly. When cars are approaching at high speed and decelerating to a stop the risk that one can lose control cannot be overlooked. If a competitor lifts rapidly off the throttle as soon as they pass through the Flying Finish 'gate' this can affect the balance and grip their car has. Any need to negotiate a corner or crest when the crew may have 'switched off', and with a potentially unbalanced car or lower grip level than they experienced during the stage, can pose a risk for an accident so the location needs careful consideration.

We therefore remind you of the following recommendations:



Flying Finish (FF)

- The location of the Flying Finish should not pose a challenge or test to the competitor.
- It should be straight and not have a corner immediately after the finish line.
- There should be at least 200m from the FF 'gate' to the Stop Control (SC) to allow the competitor to come to a halt without having to slow or brake excessively.
- There should be no spectators between the FF and the SC.
- There should be no parked between the FF and the SC.

- The timing marshals at the FF need to be in a protected area to be able to record the time of the car going past and not have any risk of being hit by flying stones or an errant car.
- Whilst they need to be level with the finish line of the stage, they need to be on the inside line of whichever direction the rally cars will take.
- They need to be on higher ground than the road and at least 3 metres back from the edge of the stage.
- It may not be possible to have access for a vehicle at the Flying Finish location.
- In essence, the road between the FF and SC should be considered the same as the competitive section of special stage or course.



Stop Control (SC)

- The SC must have fire extinguishers at hand should they be required for any situation when a car arrives at this location.
- The SC should not be positioned within 150m of any main or adjoining road that is not closed for the competition.
- On some events the SC can be busy with media looking to get quotes from the crews as soon as they complete the special stage.
- The marshals should outline how they want to work with the media before the cars arrive so that everyone can conduct their duties safely and efficiently.
- In addition, spectator control needs to be well planned with sufficient space for fans to get a glimpse of their heroes while still remaining at a safe distance from the cars themselves.



Stage Access

- The access to the stage finish should be closed 30 min before the first competing car is due to ensure there are no spectators moving on the stage itself.
- It is important that organisers put in place a proper and safe pathway to circulate spectators before this closing time.
- This same process should apply at the stage start as well.

You can view the Rally Safety Guidelines here:

https://www.fia.com/sites/default/files/rally_safety_guidelines_2022_en_v2.pdf

You can view the Hill Climb Safety Guidelines here:

https://www.fia.com/sites/default/files/hill_climb_safety_guidelines_v6.pdf

FIA Safety Department