



Media Information

IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship

28th June 2022

Watkins Glen: Penalty costs BMW M Team RLL a first win of the season – Podium for Turner Motorsport in the GTD class.

- John Edwards, Connor De Phillippi and Augusto Farfus come home first in the GTD-PRO class at the 6 Hours of Watkins Glen, but are then denied victory by a post-race penalty.
- Red flag for thunderstorm warning shakes up race, meaning Edwards is unable to complete the minimum drive time.
- Turner Motorsport finishes third in the GTD class.

Munich. BMW M Team RLL gave an impressive display at the 6 Hours of Watkins Glen (USA), the third endurance race in the 2022 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, however the #25 MOTUL BMW M4 GT3 was denied the result it deserved. BMW M works drivers Connor De Phillippi, John Edwards (both USA) and Augusto Farfus (BRA) started the race from pole position and, after an eventful conclusion, were first across the finish line in the GTD-PRO class. However, as Edwards had been unable to complete the minimum drive time, due to an interruption in the racing, the crew was subsequently stripped of its victory. Turner Motorsport came home fourth in the GTD class, but was promoted to third place and the final spot on the podium as a result of a penalty awarded to the class winners.

The red flag shown with roughly 90 minutes of the race remaining, due to a thunderstorm warning, was to prove fatal for BMW M Team RLL. Following the interruption, race control determined that there were 35 minutes of racing remaining. Faced with a sprint to the finish, the #25 MOTUL BMW M4 GT3 found itself in the best position despite running fifth in the GTD-PRO class, as it was able to make it through to the finish without having to come into the pits to refuel. When all his rivals were forced to come in for a 'splash and dash' shortly before the end of the race, Edwards took the lead and went on to claim what he believed would be the first victory for the team with the new car. However, then came the disappointment. After the interruption, there was insufficient time remaining for Edwards to complete

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his minimum drive time of 1:17 hours. This counted as a breach of the rules, resulting in a penalty that saw the team demoted to the back of the GTD-PRO field. As such, BMW M Team RLL went unrewarded for its impressive weekend, during which De Phillippi had secured pole position on the Saturday.

Many other teams had the same driving-time issues as BMW M Team RLL, including the winners of the GTD class. Among those to benefit from the penalties were the Turner Motorsport team. Bill Auberlen, Robby Foley and Michael Dinan (all USA) actually crossed the finish line in fourth place in the #96 BMW M4 GT3, but were then able to celebrate on the podium after inheriting third place. The #1 BMW M4 GT3 of Paul Miller Racing dropped back to eleventh place following a late pit stop as a result of a collision.

The IMSA season continues this weekend at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park.

Quotes after the race:

Brandon Fry (Technical Director BMW M Team RLL): "The red flag came with roughly 90 minutes remaining. John Edwards had entered the car some time before that. If not for the interruption, during which the race time continued to run down, but the drive time did not, John would easily have been within the original minimum drive time of 90 minutes. However, when this was adjusted to just 1:17 hours, despite the longer break, it meant John was no longer able to meet the requirement after the restart. Our strategy was solid and a proven winner. The adjustment to the minimum drive time came too late for us to be able to react and adapt our strategy. Yes, we are disappointed, but at the same time we are focussed on securing our victory at CTMP."

Connor De Phillippi (#25 MOTUL BMW M4 GT3, BMW M Team RLL): "There was nothing else we could have done. The important thing is that we had a fantastic car and the team performed superbly throughout the entire race. We started from the front and led for most of the race. Everyone knows who actually won. But these things happen. When you consider



where we were in Daytona, then we can be very happy with the progress we have made. We are now concentrating on the next race."

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