

# Rule Interpretation on Significant transportation delay

## Appendix D: Definitions

Force majeure:

The action of the elements, strike, lockout or other industrial disturbance, unlawful act against public order or authority, war blockade, public riot, lightning, fire or explosion, storm, flood, blacklisting, boycott or sanctions however incurred, freight embargo, significant transportation delay or any other, event which is not reasonably within the control of the party affected.

## Clarification on significant transportation delay

Distinguish between:

- a) Transportation with a scheduled itinerary (i.e., flights, railroads, busses)
- b) Transportation without a planned itinerary (i.e., by car)

For a), provide the following guideline:

A significant transportation delay may be argued only if the athlete planned to arrive a minimum of 4 hours before the briefing. In the case of multiple-leg travel, the time allowed between each leg of transportation is at least 2 hours.

The time of the local transportation from the airport to the destination should also be calculated to allow 1.5 times the regular travel time between the airport and the destination.

It is the athlete's responsibility to provide proper documentation of the delay.

For b), provide the following guideline:

A significant transportation delay may be argued only if the athlete is allowed 1.5 times the regular travel time between origin and destination.

It is the athlete's responsibility to provide proper documentation of the delay.

## Rationale

The wording “significant transportation delay” is subjective and open to interpretation.

Considering the different levels of events, the distinction between travel with or without a scheduled itinerary should cover all scenarios. Providing defined times such as 4 hours before the briefing, 2 hours between travel legs, and 1.5 times of regular travel time signals to the athlete to plan their travel correctly.

In general, these guidelines signal that it is the athletes’ responsibility to plan appropriately. If athletes think they only need to arrive one hour before the briefing, they will be 100% responsible for the consequences if something goes wrong. In any case, the HR is obliged to give the penalty, and the case can be reviewed by the Competition Jury, following a protest according to the set procedures in the Competition Jury rules.