



Race Preview

2015 RUSSIAN GRAND PRIX 09-11 October 2015

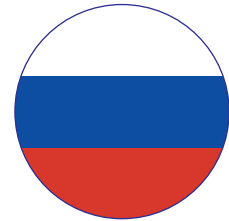
Teams and drivers head to the Sochi Autodrom this week for round 15 of the 2015 FIA Formula One World Championship, the Russian Grand Prix.

In 2014, the Russian Grand Prix was something of a novelty: the new race on the calendar, filled with challenges unknown. A year on, the novelty is diminished but the challenges remain: the Sochi Autodrom is a highly technical circuit and difficult to get right.

The circuit is characterised by hard braking into low-speed corners. Last year it proved to be a power track, at which traction was a key performance consideration. It proved a tough circuit on which to follow another car closely, and thus overtaking opportunities were rare. Grid position and a strong opening lap are considered vital.

A significant factor in 2014 was the struggle to generate tyre temperature. The smooth surface, exacerbated by the oily sheen inevitable with freshly-laid asphalt, made it very difficult for drivers to warm their tyres. That will be different in 2015 with the track weathered-in and most of the oils dispersed. Allied to this, Pirelli have taken a step down in their tyre range for this race with the conservative choice of medium and soft tyres for 2014 being replaced by soft and supersoft this year. In short, it should be easier to generate heat in the tyres and there should be more grip.

Having out-scored team-mate Nico Rosberg in five of the last six grands prix, Drivers' Championship leader Lewis Hamilton goes to Russia with a healthy 48-point lead over his rival. Mercedes' grip on first and second positions in the Drivers' Championship is less secure, with Rosberg only 11 points ahead of third-placed Sebastian Vettel. The Ferrari driver has been on the podium in five of the last six races, his run only interrupted by a DNF at Spa. Mercedes, meanwhile, go to Sochi with a good chance of securing the Constructors' Championship.



CIRCUIT DATA

SOCHI AUTODROM

Length of lap: 5.848km

Lap record: 1:40.896 (Valtteri Bottas, Williams, 2014)

Start line/finish line offset: 0.199km

Total number of race laps: 53

Total race distance: 309.745km

Pitlane speed limits: 60km/h in practice, qualifying, and the race

CIRCUIT NOTES

- ▶ Additional kerbs (behind the main kerbs) on the apex of T2 and T13 have been lowered to 80mm above track level.
- ▶ A combination kerb 50mm higher than the existing kerb has been installed behind the kerb on the exit of T2. Bollards and lines in the T2 run-off will guide cars to a point where they may rejoin the track.
- ▶ Additional small overlaps for driver egress, similar to those elsewhere, have been provided on the driver's left around T3. Openings for cars have been provided in the walls behind the apex of T4 and T5.
- ▶ The TecPro barrier around the exit of T8 has been extended.
- ▶ The wall on the driver's right in the pit entry has been removed and replaced by a guardrail.

DRS ZONE

- ▶ Two DRS zones in Sochi: zone one detection 138m before T1 with activation at the T1 apex. Zone two detection 72m before T10, activation 230m after T10.

ROUND 15	RUSSIAN GRAND PRIX	START TIME	14:00 Local - 11:00 GMT
RACE DATE:	11 OCT 2015	CIRCUIT LENGTH:	5.848KM
CIRCUIT NAME:	SOCHI AUTODROM	RACE DISTANCE:	309.745KM
NUMBER OF LAPS:	53	LAP RECORD:	1:40.896 - V. Bottas [2014]

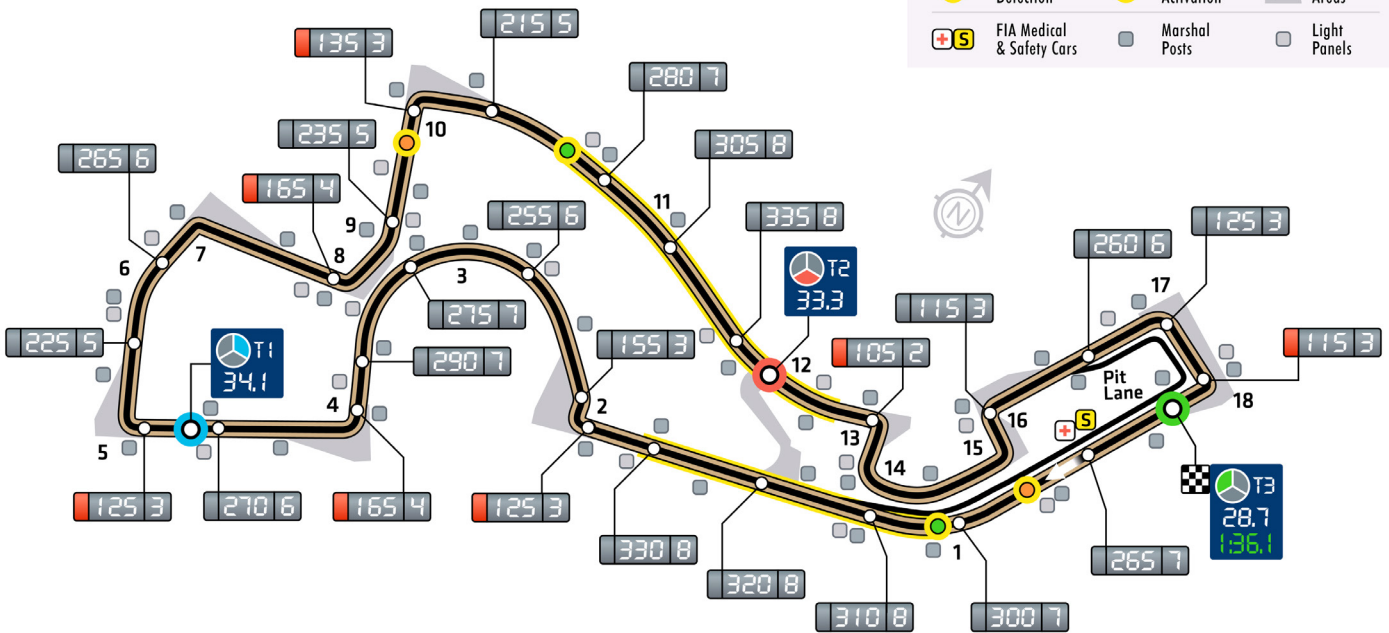
KEY

Speed Kmh
Braking 125.3 Gear

Sector Time
T3 28.7
Lap Time 1:36.1

Timing Sector
Lap Time

● Sector 1 ● Sector 2 ● Sector 3
— Circuit — Start — Finish
● DRS Detection ● DRS Activation — Run-off Areas
+ S FIA Medical & Safety Cars — Marshal Posts — Light Panels



FAST FACTS

- ▶ Mercedes currently lead Ferrari by 169 points. Leaving Russia with a lead of 172 points will suffice for Mercedes to become Champions-elect.
- ▶ Mercedes secured the Constructors' Championship at the Russian Grand Prix in 2014. It was round 16 of last year's championship. This year Russia is the 15th race of the season. 2014 is Mercedes' only Constructors' Championship victory to date.
- ▶ The 2014 Russian Grand Prix marked the final appearance of the Marussia team in its original guise. The team did not participate in the final three rounds of the season. It reappeared as Manor at the start of 2015.
- ▶ Dany Kvyat is the only home-grown driver in the field for the Russian Grand Prix. Born in Ufa, Bashkortostan, Kvyat achieved a career-best second-place at the Hungarian Grand Prix earlier this year. Fellow Russian Sergey Sirotkin made his grand prix weekend debut at Sochi last year. The Muscovite drove on Friday in FP1, substituting at Sauber for race driver Esteban Gutiérrez. Previous to that, he had completed one day testing for the team earlier in the year, appearing in Bahrain on day one of the first in-season test.
- ▶ Valtteri Bottas' Sochi Autodrom lap record of 1:40.896 is the only fastest lap of his F1 career to date. He set it on lap 53, the final lap of last year's race, beating the 1:41.360 of Nico Rosberg, set the previous lap. Rosberg had made his only pit stop at the end of lap one, swapping from the soft to the medium tyre. He therefore set his fastest lap on 51-lap old tyres.
- ▶ The Sochi lap record is one of three on the current F1 calendar held by Williams. The other two are Sepang and Interlagos, both set by Juan Pablo Montoya in 2004. Williams also hold the lap record at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodríguez in Mexico City, courtesy of Nigel Mansell – though that record is archived, the track having changed.
- ▶ All 19 drivers to complete the 2014 Russian Grand Prix set their personal best lap time towards the end of the 53-lap race – specifically between laps 42 and 53. Sixteen ran a one-stop race, including all 10 points-scoring drivers. Of the top ten, only Sergio Pérez (10th) set his PB on the (faster) soft tyre.
- ▶ Victory in Japan last time out was Lewis Hamilton's 41st in F1. It ties him fourth-equal with Ayrton Senna, one behind Sebastian Vettel. Suzuka was Hamilton's 162nd grand prix appearance. His record is similar to that of Senna, who won his 41st race at his 159th grand prix.
- ▶ The Sochi Autodrom, at 5.848km is one of the longer circuits on the current F1 calendar. Only Spa (7.004km) and Silverstone (5.891km) are longer.
- ▶ The Sochi Autodrom tours the Olympic park created for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games. It is one of several F1 circuits with an Olympic connection. The Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya hosted the road team time trial cycling event at the 1992 Barcelona Summer Games, and the back straight of the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve runs adjacent to the Olympic rowing basin used in the 1976 Montreal Summer Games. Magdalena Mixhuca Sports City, in which the Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez is located, hosted many events at the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games.

RACE STEWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

PAUL GUTJAHR

PRESIDENT OF THE FIA HILL CLIMB COMMISSION, BOARD MEMBER AND PRESIDENT OF AUTO SPORT SUISE SARL

Paul Gutjahr started racing in the late 1960s with Alfa Romeo, Lancia, Lotus and Porsche, then March in Formula 3. In the early '70s he became President of the Automobile Club Berne and organised numerous events. He acted as President of the organising committee of the Swiss GP at Dijon between 1980-82. Between 1980-2005 he acted as President of the Commission Sportive Nationale de l'Automobile Club de Suisse and in 2005 he became President and board member of the Auto Sport Suisse motor sports club. Gutjahr is President of the Alliance of European Hill Climb Organisers and has been steward at various high-level international competitions. He was the Formula 3000 Sporting Commissioner and has been a Formula One steward since 1995.



VINCENZO SPANO

FIA PRESIDENT OF THE SPORTING COMMISSION OF THE AUTOMOBILE AND TOURING CLUB OF VENEZUELA

Italian-born Vincenzo Spano grew up in Venezuela, where he went on to study at the Universidad Central de Venezuela, becoming an attorney-at-law. Spano has wide-ranging experience in motor sport, from national to international level. He has worked for the Touring y Automóvil Club de Venezuela since 1991, and served as President of the Sporting Commission since 2001. He was president for two terms and now sits as a member of the Board of the Nacam-FIA zone. Since 1995 Spano has been a licenced steward and obtained his FIA steward superlicence in 2003. Spano has been involved with the FIA and FIA Institute in various roles since 2001: a member of the World Motor Sport Council, the FIA Committee, and the executive committee of the FIA Institute.



DEREK DALY

FORMER FORMULA ONE DRIVER

A former Williams driver and veteran of 49 Grand Prix starts. Daly, Irish-born, but now a US resident, raced Champ Cars in America, after the end of his F1 career in 1982. He enjoyed seven seasons in top-level US motorsport, despite a 200mph accident at Michigan International Speedway in 1984, in which he sustained extensive multiple injuries and which threatened to end his career. Daly described the accident as "life-changing" but he returned for the start of the following season. Since retiring from full-time racing in 1990, after some notable additional success in sportscars, Daly moved into race commentary with Speed TV and ESPN and has subsequently developed a business as a motivational speaker. He also owns the Derek Daly Academy driver training school.



2015 FIA Formula One World Championship

DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

	AUSTRALIA	MALAYSIA	CHINA	BAHRAIN	SPAIN	MONACO	CANADA	AUSTRIA	GB	HUNGARY	BELGIUM	ITALY	SINGAPORE	JAPAN	RUSSIA	USA	MEXICO	BRAZIL	ABU DHABI	POINTS
1. Lewis Hamilton	25	18	25	25	18	15	25	18	25	8	25	25	0	25	--	--	--	--	--	277
2. Nico Rosberg	18	15	18	15	25	25	18	25	18	4	18	0	12	18	--	--	--	--	--	229
3. Sebastian Vettel	15	25	15	10	15	18	10	12	15	25	0	18	25	15	--	--	--	--	--	218
4. Kimi Räikkönen	0	12	12	18	10	8	12	0	4	0	6	10	15	12	--	--	--	--	--	119
5. Valtteri Bottas	--	10	8	12	12	0	15	10	10	0	2	12	10	10	--	--	--	--	--	111
6. Felipe Massa	12	8	10	1	8	0	8	15	12	0	8	15	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	97
7. Daniel Ricciardo	8	1	2	8	6	10	0	1	0	15	0	4	18	0	--	--	--	--	--	73
8. Daniil Kvyat	--	2	0	2	1	12	2	0	8	18	12	1	8	0	--	--	--	--	--	66
9. Romain Grosjean	0	0	6	6	4	0	1	0	0	6	15	0	0	6	--	--	--	--	--	44
10. Sergio Pérez	1	0	0	4	0	6	0	2	2	0	10	8	6	0	--	--	--	--	--	39
11. Nico Hülkenberg	6	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	6	0	0	6	0	8	--	--	--	--	--	38
12. Max Verstappen	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	12	4	0	4	2	--	--	--	--	--	32
13. Felipe Nasr	10	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	--	--	--	--	--	17
14. Pastor Maldonado	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	4	--	--	--	--	--	16
15. Carlos Sainz	2	4	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	--	--	--	--	--	12
16. Fernando Alonso	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	11
17. Marcus Ericsson	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	9
18. Jenson Button	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	6
19. Roberto Merhi	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0
20. Will Stevens	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	0
21. Alexander Rossi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	0

2015 FIA Formula One World Championship

CONSTRUCTORS' CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

	AUSTRALIA	MALAYSIA	CHINA	BAHRAIN	SPAIN	MONACO	CANADA	AUSTRIA	GB	HUNGARY	BELGIUM	ITALY	SINGAPORE	JAPAN	RUSSIA	USA	MEXICO	BRAZIL	ABU DHABI	POINTS
1. Mercedes AMG Petronas	43	33	43	40	43	40	43	43	43	12	43	25	12	43	--	--	--	--	--	506
2. Scuderia Ferrari	15	37	27	28	25	26	22	12	19	25	6	28	40	27	--	--	--	--	--	337
3. Williams Martini Racing	12	18	18	13	20	0	23	25	22	0	10	27	10	10	--	--	--	--	--	208
4. Infiniti Red Bull Racing	8	3	2	10	7	22	2	1	8	33	12	5	26	0	--	--	--	--	--	139
5. Sahara Force India F1 Team	7	0	0	4	0	6	4	10	8	0	10	14	6	8	--	--	--	--	--	77
6. Lotus F1 Team	0	0	6	6	4	0	7	6	0	6	15	0	0	10	--	--	--	--	--	60
7. Scuderia Toro Rosso	2	10	0	0	2	1	0	4	0	12	4	0	6	3	--	--	--	--	--	44
8. Sauber F1 Team	14	0	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	--	--	--	--	--	26
9. McLaren Honda	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	12	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	17
10. Manor Marussia F1 Team	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	0

FORMULA ONE TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Press conference 15.00

FRIDAY

Practice session 1 10.00-11.30

Practice session 2 14.00-15.30

Press conference 16.00

SATURDAY

Practice session 3 12.00-13.00

Qualifying 15.00-16.00

Followed by unilateral and press conference

SUNDAY

Drivers' Parade 12.30

Race 14.00

Followed by podium interviews and press conference

ADDITIONAL MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

QUALIFYING

All drivers eliminated in Q1 or Q2 are available for media interviews immediately after the end of each session, as are drivers who participated in Q3, but who are not required for the postqualifying press conference. The interview pen will be located paddock side, in front of the FIA garages.

RACE

Any driver retiring before the end of the race will be made available at the TV pen interview area. In addition, during the race every team will make available at least one senior spokesperson for interview by officially accredited TV crews. A list of those nominated will be made available in the media centre.

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