



# Race Preview

## 2017 BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX

14-16 April 2017

Just a few days have elapsed since the Chinese Grand Prix but F1 is already back in action, swapping the unseasonable cool weather and drizzle seen in Shanghai for the warmer climes of the Arabian Gulf and the first night race of the 2017 FIA Formula One World Championship – the Bahrain Grand Prix.

The Sakhir Circuit made the move from daytime racing to a 6pm start in 2014 and the shift has not only given the grand prix a character all of its own but also increased the complexity of task at hand, adding a different temperature gradient and more changeable track conditions to the existing challenges of tyre and brake wear, as well as fuel consumption headaches.

The track configuration of four straights linked by a series of low- and medium-speed corners gives the circuit something of a stop-start nature. As such brakes wear is high. It also means that good traction out of the corners is critical for lap time. Finding grip is not easy, however, as desert winds often deposit a fine layer of dust across the surface leading to a rapid deterioration in track conditions within the space of a few hours. The stop-and-go character of the track also means fuel consumption is high. The cars have an increased fuel limit of 105kg this year, but this is largely to compensate for the greater weight of the cars, so the issue could still figure in strategic considerations.

The track surface itself is not particularly abrasive, but even though the critical sessions are held in the evening, ambient temperatures are still elevated and thermal degradation of tyres is problematic, though it may be less of a concern this season due to the greater durability of this season's tyre specifications.

The season may only be two races old but already we are seeing patterns emerging. This is especially true of the tight battle forming at the top of the order between defending champions Mercedes and Ferrari, and in particular between Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel. The pair arrive in Bahrain level on points and just how well each masters the many demands Sakhir imposes could decide who heads toward the European phase of the season with the upper hand.



### BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT

**Length of lap:** 5.412km

**Lap record:**

1:31.447 (Pedro de la Rosa, McLaren, 2005)

**Start line/finish line offset:**

0.246km

**Total number of race laps:** 57

**Total race distance:** 308.238km

**Pitlane speed limits:**

80km/h in practice, qualifying, and the race

### CIRCUIT NOTES

- ▶ Other than routine maintenance no changes of significance have been made.

### DRS ZONE

- ▶ The DRS sectors at the Bahrain International Circuit will be as last year. The detection point of the first zone is 10m before Turn Nine and the activation point is 50m after Turn 10. The second zone's detection point is 108m before Turn 14, with activation occurring 270m after Turn 15.

<b>ROUND 03</b>	<b>BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX</b>	<b>START TIME</b>	18:00 Local - 15:00 GMT
<b>RACE DATE:</b>	16 APR 2017	<b>CIRCUIT LENGTH:</b>	5.412KM
<b>CIRCUIT NAME:</b>	BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT	<b>RACE DISTANCE:</b>	308.238KM
<b>NUMBER OF LAPS:</b>	57	<b>LAP RECORD:</b>	1:31.447 - Pedro De la Rosa [2005]

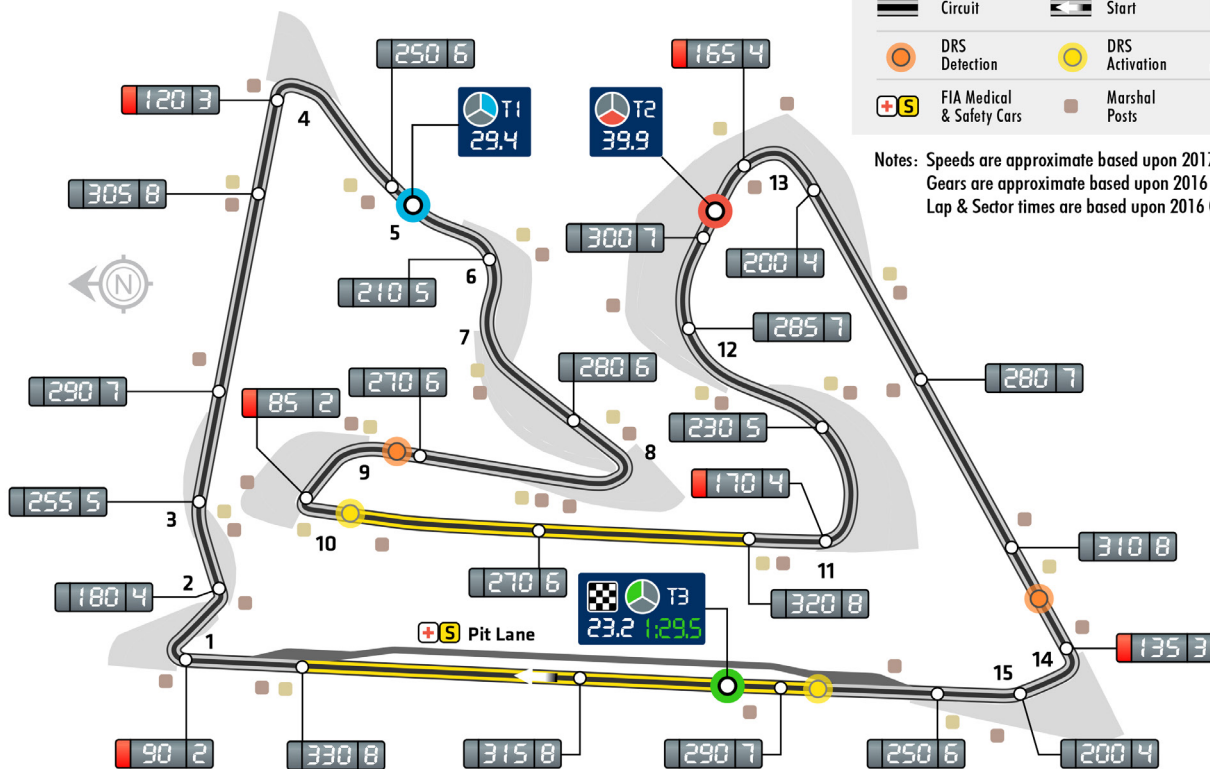
**KEY**

Speed Km/h  
Braking **135 3** Gear

Sector Time **T3 23.2** Timing Sector  
Lap Time **1:32.5**

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

Notes: Speeds are approximate based upon 2017 simulated data  
Gears are approximate based upon 2016 data  
Lap & Sector times are based upon 2016 Qualifying data



## FAST FACTS

- ▶ This is the 13th Bahrain Grand Prix. The first race took place in 2004 and with the exception of 2011 when the race was cancelled it has featured on all calendars since. The 2010 race was the only edition to be held on the longer 'Endurance Circuit', featuring an extra loop between Turns Four and Five of the Grand Prix Circuit.
- ▶ In 2014, for its 10th anniversary celebrations the race start was moved to a 6pm slot, with the race being run under floodlights. The grand prix has held at the same time since.
- ▶ The most successful driver at the Bahrain Grand Prix is Fernando Alonso, who has three victories to his name (2005 and 2006 for Renault and 2010 for Ferrari). Felipe Massa, Sebastian Vettel and Lewis Hamilton all have two wins apiece. Curiously, all three drivers have back-to-back wins at the Sakhir Circuit. Massa's were scored with Ferrari (2007-'08); Vettel's pair came with Red Bull Racing (2012-'13), while Hamilton's were with Mercedes (2014-'15).
- ▶ Three other drivers have won in Bahrain. Michael Schumacher won the inaugural event in 2004 for Ferrari, Jenson Button won with Brawn GP in 2009 and Nico Rosberg won last year's race with Mercedes.
- ▶ Alonso may have the most victories in Bahrain but Kimi Räikkönen has the most visits to the podium to his name, with eight. He scored a hat-trick of third places from 2005-2007 and since then the Finn has finished second five times – in 2008, 2012, 2013, 2015 and last year.
- ▶ Romain Grosjean made his first trip to the F1 podium here in 2012. In his 11th grand prix start the Frenchman finished third for Lotus behind Räikkönen and race winner Vettel. His second Bahrain podium was in 2013. He was again third for Lotus.
- ▶ Five other current drivers have featured on the podium here – Hamilton has five visits to the rostrum to his credit, Massa, Alonso and Vettel have three, while Sergio Pérez raced to third place here in 2014.
- ▶ Ferrari is the most successful constructor at this race, with four wins (2004, 2007-'08 and 2010). Mercedes have three wins (2014-'16), while Red Bull Racing (2012-'13) and Renault (2005-'06) have two and Brawn GP won in 2009.
- ▶ Stoffel Vandoorne made his Formula One race debut here last year. The Belgian driver stood in for Fernando Alonso who was unfit to race following a crash two weeks earlier at the Australian Grand Prix. Vandoorne qualified in 12th position and drove to 10th the race, scoring a point at the first time of asking.
- ▶ Four drivers have multiple pole positions here. Michael Schumacher (2004, '06), Vettel (2010, '12), Nico Rosberg (2013, '14) and Lewis Hamilton (2015, '16).
- ▶ Four other drivers have been on pole: Alonso (2005), Massa (2007), Robert Kubica (2008) and Jarno Trulli in 2009. From 12 runnings, the race has been won from pole five times. The Bahrain Grand Prix has never been won from further back than fourth on the grid.

# RACE STEWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

## DR GERD ENNSER

### **MEMBER OF THE DMSB'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR AUTOMOBILE SPORT, FORMULA ONE AND DTM STEWARD**

Dr Gerd Ennsler has successfully combined his formal education in law with his passion for motor racing. While still active as a racing driver he began helping out with the management of his local motor sport club and since 2006 has been a permanent steward at every round of Germany's DTM championship. Since 2010 he has also been a Formula One steward. Dr Ennsler, who has worked as a judge, a prosecutor and in the legal department of an automotive-industry company, has also acted as a member of the steering committee of German motor sport body, the DMSB, since spring 2010, where he is responsible for automobile sport. In addition, Dr Ennsler is a board member of the South Bavaria Section of ADAC, Germany's biggest auto club.



## RADOVAN NOVAK

### **SEC. GENERAL OF THE ACCR (AUTOCLUB OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC), WORLD MOTOR SPORT COUNCIL MEMBER**

Radovan Novak has been actively involved in motorsport since 1963 and rose to become Secretary General of the ACCR in 1990. Since 1991 he has held the role of President of the FIA Central Europe Zone and over the past two decades he has acted as a steward and observer in WRC and ERC rallies, EC autocross and rallycross events and WTCC and GT races. He has been a Formula One steward since 1994. From 1994 to 2006, he was a member of the FIA Off-road Commission and was made a member of the World Motor Sport Council in 1998. In 2000 he became a member of the Sport Commission at the Ministry of Sport of the Czech Republic. An avid racer and co-driver, Novak has won a number of Czech rallying events.



## DANNY SULLIVAN

### **FORMER F1 DRIVER, INDIANAPOLIS 500 WINNER AND CART CHAMPION**

US racer Danny Sullivan made his F1 debut with Tyrrell at the 1983 Brazilian Grand Prix. He raced just one season in F1, scoring a best result of fifth in Monaco. In 1984, Sullivan returned to the US where he resumed a successful Indy Car career. He is perhaps best known for his 'spin and win' victory at the 1985 Indianapolis 500, where he passed leader Mario Andretti, survived a 360 degree spin, and then caught and re-passed Andretti to claim the Borg-Warner Trophy. He won the Indy Car World Series title in 1988. After 17 victories from 170 Indy Car starts he drew a line under his open-wheel career in 1995. He finished third in the Le Mans 24 Hours in a Dauer Porsche 962 in 1994. He made four starts at Le Mans, the most recent being 2004.







# FORMULA ONE TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY

**Press conference** 1500

## FRIDAY

**Practice session 1** 1400-1530

**Practice session 2** 1800-1930

**Press conference** 2000

## SATURDAY

**Practice session 3** 1500-1600

**Qualifying** 1800-1900

Followed by unilateral and press conference

## SUNDAY

**Drivers' Parade** 1630

**Race** 1800

Followed by podium interviews and press conference

## ADDITIONAL MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

### QUALIFYING

All drivers eliminated in Q1 or Q2 will be available for media interviews immediately after the end of each session, as will drivers who participated in Q3, but who are not required for the post-qualifying press conference. The TV Pen is located in front of the door leading to the press conference room.

### 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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