



Race Preview

2018 CHINESE GRAND PRIX

13 – 15 April 2018

Following a first thrilling visit of the season to the Middle East at last weekend's Bahrain Grand Prix, Formula 1 rapidly returns to action with its first Far Eastern race of the year, the Chinese Grand Prix, round three of the 2018 FIA Formula 1 World Championship.

The imposing Shanghai International Circuit possesses a number of characteristics that make for a challenging weekend, for both drivers and engineers.

The SIC is a circuit of contrasts. On the one hand it's recognised as a 'front-limited' circuit that puts high levels of stress on the front tyres, especially through the opening tight and twisting complex of corners known as the 'Snail', where the emphasis is on good balances and downforce. On the other hand set-up is pulled in the opposite direction by the track's two long straights, where teams seek to reduce drag in the search for straight line speed. It's a delicate balancing act that often eludes even the best prepared team.

Matters are further complicated by the fact that the prevailing cool temperatures at this time of year mean that getting front tyres switched on is tricky on the relatively smooth surface. Failure to do so can result in high levels of graining and wear.

To help, Pirelli this weekend brings its ultrasoft compound to Shanghai for the first time. The purple-banded tyres are part of a three-compound selection that gaps the range for the first time this season, with teams also being offered the medium and soft tyre.

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel heads into this race on the back of his best start to a season since 2011, the year of his second world championship title. His two wins so far have given him a 17-point lead over Lewis Hamilton, but the Mercedes driver has an enviable record in Shanghai, with five victories to his credit. Historic or current form? It's set to be another fascinating weekend of Formula 1 action.



SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT

Length of lap: 5.451km

Lap record:

1:32.238 (Michael Schumacher, Ferrari, 2004)

Start line/finish line offset:

0.190km

Total number of race laps: 56

Total race distance: 305.066km

Pitlane speed limits:

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

CIRCUIT NOTES

- ▶ The concrete (inner) section of pit lane has been resurfaced.

DRS ZONE

- ▶ The DRS zones at the Shanghai International Circuit will be as last year. The detection point of the first zone is at Turn 12 and the activation point is 752m before Turn 14. The second zone's detection point is 35m before Turn 16, with activation occurring 98m after Turn 16.

ROUND 03	CHINESE GRAND PRIX	START TIME	14:10 Local - 06:10 GMT
RACE DATE:	15 APR 2018	CIRCUIT LENGTH:	5.451KM
CIRCUIT NAME:	SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT	RACE DISTANCE:	305.066KM
NUMBER OF LAPS:	56	LAP RECORD:	1:32.238 - M Schumacher [2004]

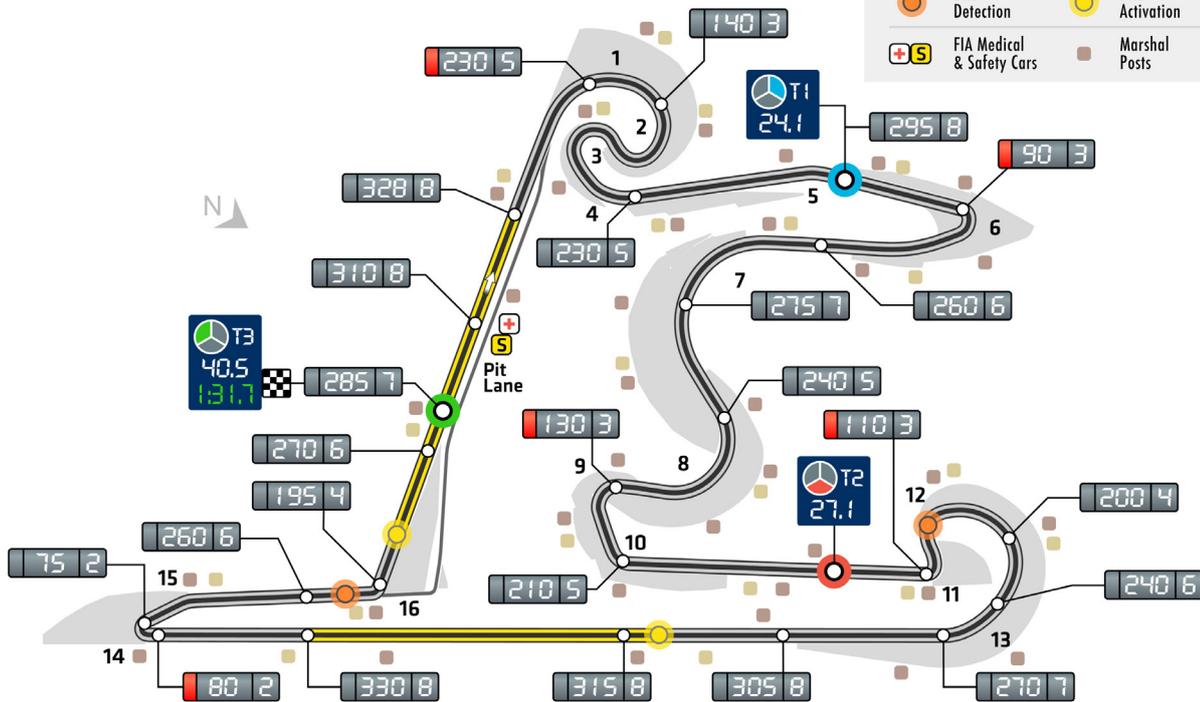
KEY

Speed Kmh
Braking 100 2 Gear

Sector Time T3 40.5 Lap Time 131.7

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

Note: Speeds, Gears, Lap & Sector times are based upon 2017 Qualifying data



FAST FACTS

- ▶ This is the 15th edition of the Chinese Grand Prix. The first event took place in 2004 and it has been held every year since at the Shanghai International Circuit.
- ▶ Lewis Hamilton is by far the most successful driver at the Chinese Grand Prix. The Briton has won the event five times – in 2008 and 2011 for McLaren and in 2014, 2015 and last year with Mercedes. Next on the list are Fernando Alonso (2005 and 2013) and Nico Rosberg (2012 and 2016). The trio are the only multiple Chinese GP winners from the eight drivers to have won in at the SIC.
- ▶ Two other current drivers have won in China: Kimi Räikkönen, in 2007, and Sebastian Vettel, in 2009. The other winners are Rubens Barrichello (2004), Michael Schumacher (2006), and Jenson Button (2010).
- ▶ The victories scored by Hamilton and Rosberg make Mercedes the most successful constructor at this race, with five victories. Ferrari are next with four and McLaren have three wins here.
- ▶ Hamilton again leads the way on podium appearances with eight. In addition to his five wins he has one second place (2010) and two third places (2012, 2013). Only four other current drivers have appeared on the podium in China: Räikkönen Alonso, Vettel have five apiece, while the newest member of the club is Max Verstappen, who finished third last year.
- ▶ Hamilton also holds the record for most pole positions in China: 2007, 2008, 2013-'15 and 2017. That's three more than nearest rival Vettel who started from the front of the grid in 2009, 2010 and 2011.
- ▶ In the 14 events here the race has been won from pole position nine times and each of the last four races has been won from the front of the grid. Michael Schumacher holds the record for winning from furthest back on the grid. The German's sole win here was scored after starting from sixth place.
- ▶ The Shanghai International Circuit was the scene of Red Bull Racing's first win in Formula 1, with Vettel winning from pole position. The team has since take 54 further victories, the most recent being Max Verstappen's 2017 Mexico Grand Prix win. The team's first 1-2 also came at the 2009 race here, with Mark Webber taking second place behind Vettel. Sixteen more have followed, with the most recent being at the 2016 Malaysian GP when Daniel Ricciardo won ahead of Max Verstappen.
- ▶ This weekend Valtteri Bottas is set to make his 100th grand prix start. The Finn made his F1 race debut at the 2013 Australian Grand Prix for Williams. Since then he has scored three wins (Russia, Austria and Abu Dhabi 2017) and four pole positions (Bahrain, Austria, Brazil, Abu Dhabi 2017).
- ▶ This weekend Hamilton could break Räikkönen's record of 27 consecutive finishes in the points. The Finn's record encompassed a stretch between the 2012 Bahrain GP and the 2013 Hungarian GP. Hamilton last failed to finish at the 2016 Malaysian GP, when an engine problem ended his race after 40 laps. Meanwhile, the double DNF suffered by Red Bull Racing in Bahrain brought to an end a run of 39 consecutive races in the points for the Milton Keynes team.

RACE STEWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

NISH SHETTY

FIA STEWARD AND MEMBER OF THE FIA INTERNATIONAL COURT OF APPEAL

Nish Shetty sits on the FIA International Court of Appeal as a judge and is a permanent member of the National Court of Appeal (Singapore). He is also Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission of the Singapore Motor Sports Association and a national steward of the Singapore Grand Prix. Shetty has assisted the Singapore Motor Sports Association for many years as a legal advisor and committee member. In addition to being involved in the Singapore Grand Prix, Shetty has acted as a steward in the Singapore Karting Championship. Away from motor sport, he is a Partner and Head of International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, South East Asia at global law firm Clifford Chance.



JOSÉ ABED

FIA VICE PRESIDENT

José Abed, an FIA Vice President since 2006, began competing in motor sport in 1961. In 1985, as a motor sport official, Abed founded the Mexican Organisation of International Motor Sport (OMDAI) which represents Mexico in the FIA. He sat as its Vice-President from 1985 to 1999, becoming President in 2003. In 1986, Abed began promoting truck racing events in Mexico and from 1986 to 1992, he was President of Mexican Grand Prix organising committee. In 1990 and 1991, he was President of the organising committee for the International Championship of Prototype Cars and from 1990 to 1995, Abed was designated Steward for various international Grand Prix events. Since 1990, Abed has been involved in manufacturing prototype chassis, electric cars, rally cars and kart chassis.



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 15.00

FRIDAY

Practice session 1 10.00-11.30

Press conference 12.00

Practice session 2 14.00-15.30

SATURDAY

Practice session 3 11.00-12.00

Qualifying 14.00-15.00

Followed by unilateral and press conference

SUNDAY

Drivers' Parade 12.40

Race 14.10

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 the paddock 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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