



Race Preview

2018 JAPANESE GRAND PRIX

05 – 07 October 2018



After a tense and intriguing battle by the Black Sea in Sochi, Formula 1 is back in action just a week later as teams and drivers head to legendary Suzuka for Round 17 of the 2018 FIA Formula One World Championship: the Japanese Grand Prix.

A favourite of fans and F1 personnel alike, Suzuka, which is this weekend celebrating hosting its 30th FIA Formula 1 race, is one of the sport's classics circuits, renowned for the exacting nature of its layout, which tests drivers and engineers in equal measure.

The figure-of-eight circuit features every kind of corner. From the precision required to perfectly thread a car through the first sector's intricate 'Esses', where balance is at a premium, to the risk and reward nature of the braking zones for the Degner curves, and making the most of the long high-G arc of the Spoon Curve and the flat out blast of 130R, stitching together a flawless lap of Suzuka is on the season's great challenges for drivers.

The circuit is no less taxing for teams and the fast and flowing nature of the layout – especially through sections such as the 'Esses', where rapid changes of direction put the accent on good balance – makes arriving at the perfect set-up a tricky task. Suzuka is also tough on tyres, with the many fast corners putting high lateral loads through the rubber. To cope with these demands, tyre supplier Pirelli is bringing its medium, soft and supersoft compounds to Japan this weekend.

Victory in Russia for Lewis Hamilton means that the Mercedes driver arrives in Japan with a commanding 50-point Drivers' championship lead over closest rival Sebastian Vettel. The Ferrari man will be hoping for a reversal of recent fortunes and his four previous wins in Suzuka will give him cause to believe that feat can be accomplished this weekend. Hamilton, though, has three wins to his credit at this track, while Mercedes, who extended their Constructors' title lead over the Scuderia to 53 points in Russia, can point to four straight hybrid era wins at this track as evidence that the road to victory at this 30th F1 race in Suzuka should be lined with silver. A fascinating battle awaits.

SUZUKA INTERNATIONAL RACING COURSE

Length of lap:

5.807km

Lap record:

1:31.540 (Kimi Räikkönen, McLaren, 2005)

Start line/finish line offset:

0.300km

Total number of race laps:

53

Total race distance:

307.471km

Pitlane speed limits:

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

CIRCUIT NOTES

- ▶ New double kerbs have been installed on the exit of Turns 13 and 14.
- ▶ Tyres, with tube inserts, and additional conveyor belts have been installed in sections of the tyre barriers around the outside of Turns 2, 5, 7, 8 and 15.

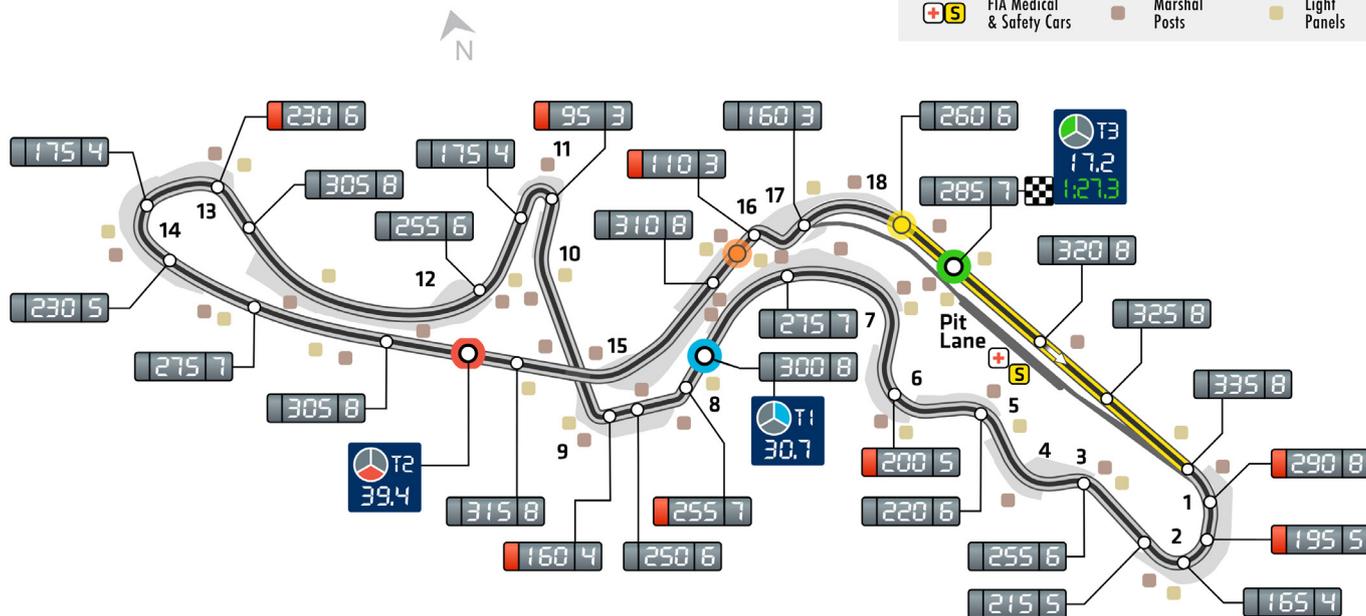
DRS ZONES

- ▶ There will be just one DRS zone at Suzuka, located on the main straight. The detection point is 50m before Turn 16 and the activation point is 100m before the control line.

ROUND 17	JAPANESE GRAND PRIX	START TIME	14:10 Local - 05:10 GMT
RACE DATE:	07 OCT 2018	CIRCUIT LENGTH:	5.807KM
CIRCUIT NAME:	SUZUKA CIRCUIT	RACE DISTANCE:	307.471KM
NUMBER OF LAPS:	53	LAP RECORD:	1:31.540 - K Raikkonen [2005]

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

KEY		Speed Kmh	Sector Time	Timing Sector	Lap Time
Braking	110.3	Gear	T3	17.2	1:27.3
●	Sector 1	●	Sector 2	●	Sector 3
—	Circuit	—	Start	—	Finish
○	DRS Detection	●	DRS Activation	—	Run-off Areas
+	FIA Medical & Safety Cars	●	Marshal Posts	—	Light Panels



FAST FACTS

- ▶ This is the 34th Japanese Grand Prix, and the 30th to take place at Suzuka. The race debuted at the Fuji Speedway in 1976 and hosted a second edition in 1977 before dropping off the schedule for a decade. The race returned in 1987 at Suzuka and save for a brief spell at Fuji in 2007 and 2008, it has been staged at the Mie prefecture circuit each year since.
- ▶ Michael Schumacher is the most successful driver at the Japanese Grand Prix with six victories, winning for Benetton in 1995 and Ferrari in 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2004. Second on the list are current drivers Sebastian Vettel and Lewis Hamilton, both of whom have four Japanese GP wins.
- ▶ McLaren are the most successful team at the Japanese Grand Prix with nine victories. Two of those victories are, however, at Fuji, James Hunt's 1977 win at the track being scored 30 years prior to Hamilton's. At Suzuka McLaren are tied with Ferrari on seven wins each.
- ▶ Hamilton and Fernando Alonso are the only drivers to have scored Japanese Grand Prix victories at two different venues. The first of Hamilton's four wins in Japan was scored at 2007 at Fuji, with McLaren, while the others came at Suzuka in 2014, 2015 and 2017, with Mercedes. Alonso won at Suzuka in 2006 and then at Fuji in 2008, both with Renault.
- ▶ Apart from Hamilton, Vettel and Alonso, Kimi Räikkönen is the only other current driver with a Japanese Grand Prix win to his name. The Finn won in 2005 for McLaren.
- ▶ Michael Schumacher also holds the record for Japanese GP pole positions with eight. It's not only a Japan and Suzuka record but also a joint record for most poles for a driver at any grand prix. Schumacher shares the record with Ayrton Senna who was on pole eight times at the San Marino Grand Prix.
- ▶ Statistically, pole position is not crucial for victory at Suzuka. In its 29 grands prix to date, the man on pole position has won 14 times. Second position on the grid has yielded victory 11 times. Only Räikkönen has won from further back than sixth on the grid. He scored his 2005 victory from a starting place of P17.
- ▶ Alonso is this weekend set to take sole ownership of second place on the list of drivers with the most F1 starts. Sunday will be the 307th F1 start and will move him one ahead of Michael Schumacher and Jenson Button. Rubens Barrichello holds the record, with 322 starts.
- ▶ Alessandro Nannini is the only driver to take a maiden F1 win at the Japanese Grand Prix. However, five drivers have scored their maiden podium finish at this race: Roberto Moreno and Aguri Suzuki in 1990, Mika Häkkinen in 1993, Heikki Kovalainen in 2007 and Kamui Kobayashi in 2012. Only three Japanese drivers have scored podium finishes in F1: Suzuki and Kobayashi at their home race and Takuma Sato who finished third at the 2004 US GP.
- ▶ In all, 20 Japanese drivers have made F1 appearances, with 17 making grand prix starts. The most prolific is Ukyo Katayama who made 94 starts between his 1992 debut in South Africa and his final race, the 1997 European Grand Prix. Across those six season he scored five points, finishing fifth at the Brazilian and San Marino races in 1994 and sixth at the British Grand Prix in the same year.

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.



STEVE CHOPPING

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN MOTOR SPORT (CAMS), CHAIRMAN CAMS JUDICIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN NATIONAL STEWARDS PANEL, AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP STEWARDS COACH (CAMS)

Steven Chopping competed as a driver in various karting, Formula Ford, Australian Formula 2, Sports and Production Car competitions from the early 1970s until 1990. He was a steward at the Australian Rally Championship from 1997-2004 and Chairman of the Stewards at the Australian Production Car Rally Championship from 2001-2004. He has been a permanent steward at the V8 Supercar Championship in Australia since 2004, national steward at the Australian Grand Prix from 2005 and continues to serve as Chairman of the National Stewards Panel, Supercars Stewards Panel, Judicial Advisory Committee, and as a Member of the Australian Rally Championship Stewards Panel. In 2018 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his services to motor sport.



TOM KRISTENSEN

NINE TIMES LE MANS WINNER, GERMAN F3 AND JAPANESE F3 CHAMPION (1991 AND 1993) ALMS CHAMPION (2001), WEC CHAMPION (2013) PRESIDENT OF THE FIA DRIVERS' COMMISSION, FIA WORLD MOTOR SPORT COUNCIL MEMBER

Denmark's Tom Kristensen is the most successful driver in the history of the Le Mans 24-Hour race having won the endurance event nine times before retiring from competition in November 2014. – Add a part on the 12 Hours of Sebring as he won it 6 times (record). Kristensen's outstanding career saw him race in single-seaters, touring cars as well as testing in Formula One. However, it is for his achievements in sportscars that he is correctly most lauded. His first Le Mans win came in 1997, driving for the Joest Racing team. After two years competing with BMW, he rejoined Joest, now racing as Audi Sport Team Joest, in 2000, winning three Le Mans 24-Hours in succession with the team. He won again with Bentley in 2003 before returning to the wheel of Audi machines to win in 2004-'05, 2008 and 2013. In 2013 he also won the FIA World Endurance Championship title.



2018 FIA Formula One World Championship

DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

	AUSTRALIA	BAHRAIN	CHINA	AZERBAIJAN	SPAIN	MONACO	CANADA	FRANCE	AUSTRIA	GB	GERMANY	HUNGARY	BELGIUM	ITALY	SINGAPORE	RUSSIA	JAPAN	USA	MEXICO	BRAZIL	ABU DHABI	POINTS	
1	L. HAMILTON	18 ₂	15 ₃	12 ₄	25 ₁	25 ₁	15 ₃	10 ₅	25 ₁	NC	18 ₂	25 ₁	18 ₂	25 ₁	25 ₁	25 ₁							306
2	S. VETTEL	25 ₁	25 ₁	4 ₈	12 ₄	12 ₄	18 ₂	25 ₁	10 ₅	15 ₃	25 ₁	NC	18 ₂	25 ₁	12 ₄	15 ₃	15 ₃						256
3	V. BOTTAS	4 ₈	18 ₂	18 ₂		18 ₂	10 ₅	18 ₂	6 ₇	NC	12 ₄	18 ₂	10 ₅	12 ₄	15 ₃	12 ₄	18 ₂						189
4	K. RÄIKKÖNEN	15 ₃	NC	15 ₃	18 ₂		12 ₄	8 ₆	15 ₃	18 ₂	15 ₃	15 ₃		18 ₂	10 ₅	12 ₄							186
5	M. VERSTAPPEN	8 ₆	NC	10 ₅		15 ₃	2 ₉	15 ₃	18 ₂	25 ₁		12 ₄		15 ₃	10 ₅	18 ₂	10 ₅						158
6	D. RICCIARDO	12 ₄	NC	25 ₁		10 ₅	25 ₁	12 ₄	12 ₄		10 ₅		12 ₄			8 ₆	8 ₆						134
7	K. MAGNUSSEN	NC	10 ₅	1 ₁₀		8 ₆		13 ₁₃	8 ₆	10 ₅	2 ₉	11 ₁₁	6 ₇	4 ₈		16 ₁₆	18 ₁₈	4 ₈					53
8	N. HÜLKENBERG	6 ₇	8 ₆	8 ₆		NC	4 ₈	6 ₇	2 ₉		8 ₆	10 ₅		12 ₄	NC	13 ₁₃	10 ₁₀	12 ₁₂					53
9	F. ALONSO	10 ₅	6 ₇	6 ₇	6 ₇	4 ₈		NC	NC	16 ₁₆	4 ₈	4 ₈	16 ₁₆	4 ₈	NC	NC	6 ₇	14 ₁₄					50
10	S. PÉREZ		11 ₁₆		15 ₃	2 ₉		12 ₁₄		NC	6 ₇	1 ₁₀	6 ₇	14 ₁₄	10 ₅	6 ₇		16 ₁₆	10 ₁₀				47
11	E. OCON		1 ₁₀		11 ₁₁	NC	NC	8 ₆	2 ₉	NC	8 ₆	6 ₇	8 ₆	13 ₁₃	8 ₆	8 ₆	NC	9 ₉					47
12	C. SAINZ	1 ₁₀		2 ₉	10 ₅	6 ₇	1 ₁₀	4 ₈	4 ₈				2 ₉		4 ₈	4 ₈		17 ₁₇					38
13	P. GASLY		12 ₄				6 ₇						8 ₆	2 ₉									28
14	R. GROSJEAN	NC	13 ₁₃		17 ₁₇	NC	NC	15 ₁₅	12 ₁₄	11 ₁₁		12 ₁₄	4 ₈	NC	8 ₆	10 ₁₀	7 ₇	DQ	15 ₁₅	11 ₁₁			27
15	C. LECLERC		13 ₁₃		19 ₁₉	8 ₆	1 ₁₀		1 ₁₀	1 ₁₀	2 ₉		NC	15 ₁₅	NC	NC	11 ₁₁	9 ₉	7 ₇				21
16	S. VANDOORNE	2 ₉	4 ₈		2 ₉		NC	14 ₁₄	16 ₁₆	12 ₁₄	15 ₁₅	11 ₁₁	13 ₁₃	NC	15 ₁₅	12 ₁₄	12 ₁₄	16 ₁₆					8
17	L. STROLL		14 ₁₄		14 ₁₄	4 ₈	11 ₁₁	17 ₁₇	NC	17 ₁₇	14 ₁₄	12 ₁₄	NC	17 ₁₇	13 ₁₃	9 ₉	14 ₁₄	15 ₁₅					6
18	M. ERICSSON		2 ₉		16 ₁₆	11 ₁₁	13 ₁₃	11 ₁₁	15 ₁₅	13 ₁₃	10 ₁₀	NC	9 ₉	15 ₁₅	10 ₁₀	15 ₁₅	11 ₁₁	13 ₁₃					6
19	B. HARTLEY		15 ₁₅		20 ₂₀	1 ₁₀	12 ₁₄	19 ₁₉	NC	14 ₁₄	NC	NC	10 ₁₀	11 ₁₁	14 ₁₄	NC	17 ₁₇	NC					2
20	S. SIROTKIN		NC	15 ₁₅	15 ₁₅	NC	14 ₁₄	16 ₁₆	17 ₁₇	15 ₁₅	13 ₁₃	14 ₁₄	NC		16 ₁₆	12 ₁₄	10 ₁₀	19 ₁₉	18 ₁₈				1

FORMULA ONE TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Press conference 1500

FRIDAY

Practice session 1 1000-1130

Press conference 1200

Practice session 2 1400-1530

SATURDAY

Practice session 3 1200-1300

Qualifying 1500-1600

Followed by track interviews, press conference

SUNDAY

Drivers' Parade 1230

Race 1410

Followed by parc fermé 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 entrance to race control.

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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