



# Race Preview

**2015 BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX**  
17-19 April 2015

The Bahrain International Circuit hosts the fourth round of the 2015 FIA Formula One World Championship this weekend with teams and drivers arriving in the island kingdom to prepare for the first night race of the season.

Hard on the heels of last weekend's Chinese Grand Prix, F1 has made the 6,800km trip to Bahrain and a very different environment to that experienced last time out. Dusty and hot – even in the evening – the Sakhir circuit poses a new set of challenges with extra emphasis on cooling, braking performance and traction.

Pirelli will bring the Medium and Soft compound tyres for the third time this season. Smooth tarmac and gentle kerbs encourage drivers to attack the many medium-speed corners – but tyre wear in Bahrain tends to be on the cusp of a two or three-stop strategy, so too much aggression can be counter-productive. Last year's successful transition to a race in the evening takes the extreme temperatures out of the tyre equation – though it did introduce the new variable of track temperatures dropping rapidly once the sun has gone down.

Another perennial challenge for engineers, and particularly drivers, is the variable levels of grip that afflict the Sakhir district. With high winds common, the exposed circuit is frequently swept with desert dust, leading to the unusual circumstance of the circuit sometimes 'devolving' between sessions.

Lewis Hamilton extended his drivers' championship lead in China, with a comfortable and controlled drive from pole position to his fourth victory at the Shanghai International Circuit, while behind him Nico Rosberg made up ground on Sebastian Vettel. Mercedes, meanwhile, have begun to build a sizeable lead in the constructors' championship, and the Silver Arrows are now 40 points clear of nearest challengers Ferrari.



## **CIRCUIT DATA**

### **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 alterations have been made to the circuit since the 2014 race.

## **DRS ZONES**

- 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 04</b>	BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX	<b>START TIME</b>	18:00 Local - 15:00 GMT	<b>KEY</b>
<b>RACE DATE:</b>	19 APR 2015	<b>CIRCUIT LENGTH:</b>	5.412KM	
<b>CIRCUIT NAME:</b>	BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT	<b>RACE DISTANCE:</b>	308.405KM	
<b>NUMBER OF LAPS:</b>	57	<b>LAP RECORD:</b>	1:31.447 - Pedro De la Rosa [2005]	

**KEY**

Speed Link: Braking 125.3 Gear

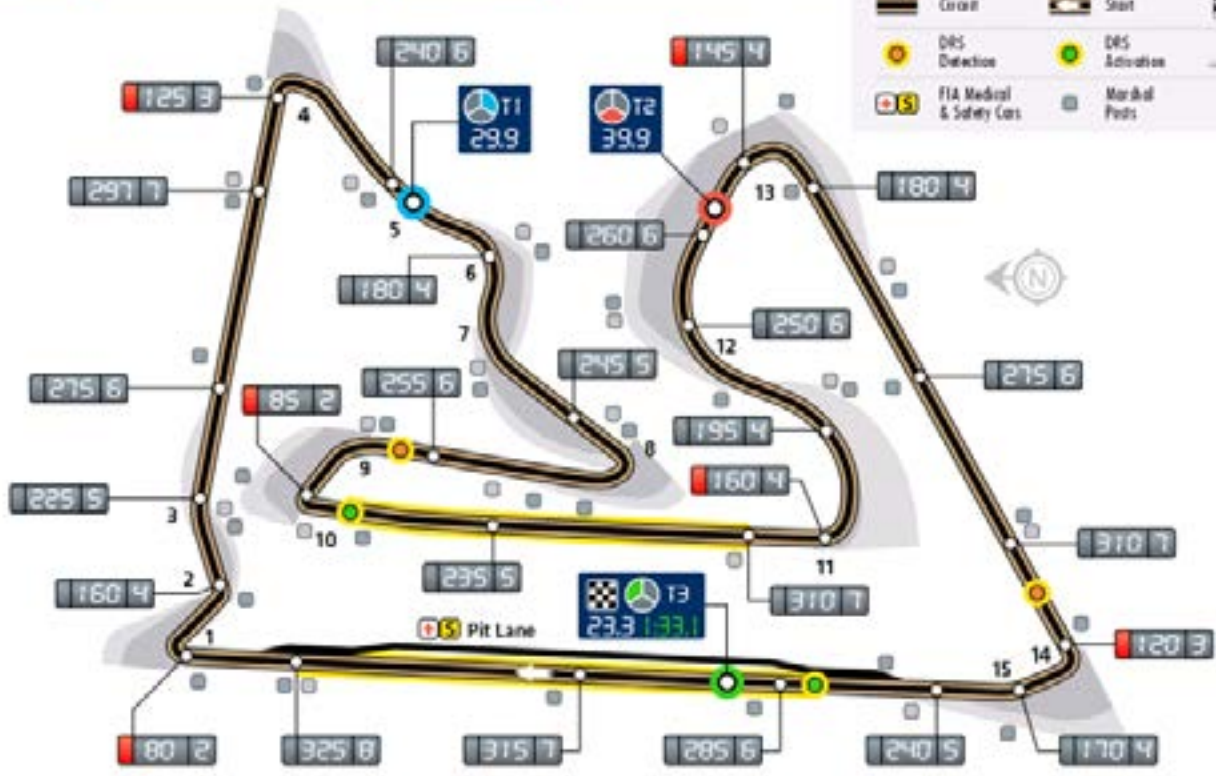
Sector Time: T3 23.3 Lap Time 1:33.1

Sector 1 (Blue), Sector 2 (Red), Sector 3 (Green)

Corner (Black), Start (Black), Finish (Checkered)

DRS Detection (Yellow), DRS Activation (Green), Run-off Areas (Grey)

FIA Medical & Safety Cars (Red/White), Marshal Posts (Grey), Light Panels (Grey)



## Bahrain GP Fast Facts

- ▶ This will be the 11th running of the Bahrain Grand Prix. The inaugural race was held in 2004, the 2011 race was cancelled.
- ▶ Over the course of the ten Bahrain Grands Prix, the race has been won from no further back than fourth place on the grid. The race has been won four times from pole position, three times from second, once from third and twice from fourth.
- ▶ Only three times has a podium place been filled by a driver starting outside the top ten. Romain Grosjean finished third in 2013, having started 11th, and Kimi Räikkönen, also for Lotus, managed a second place finish from 11th in 2012. Räikkönen, however, takes the plaudits by finishing third in 2006 for McLaren, having occupied the 22nd grid slot. The Finn started last after suffering a suspension failure in qualifying.
- ▶ The official lap record for the Bahrain International Circuit is 1:31.447, set by McLaren's Pedro de la Rosa at the 2005 Bahrain Grand Prix. This is over a second slower than the fastest lap of the 2004 Bahrain Grand Prix, where Michael Schumacher, driving for Ferrari, posted a time of 1:30.252. While the overall configuration of the circuit did not change between 2004 and 2005, the discrepancy is caused by the track being realigned at Turn Four, creating a different racing line.
- ▶ Despite McLaren holding the lap record, the Bahrain International Circuit is one of only two venues – and the only one of any long-term involvement – present on the 2015 calendar where the Woking team has not recorded a victory. The only other is the Sochi Autodrom, host of last year's inaugural Russian Grand Prix.
- ▶ The 2008 Bahrain Grand Prix saw the solitary pole position achieved by the BMW-Sauber team. It is the only F1 pole position recorded by Robert Kubica.
- ▶ Fernando Alonso is the most successful driver in Bahrain, with victories in 2005, 2006 and 2010. Ferrari is the most successful manufacturer, with victories in 2004, 2007, 2008 and 2010.
- ▶ The Bahrain Grand Prix has raced on two different versions of the Bahrain International Circuit. Between 2004–2009, and from 2012 to the present day the Grand Prix Circuit has been used – however in 2010 the race was switched to the lengthier Endurance Circuit. The change added 0.89km to the lap and an extra nine corners in a loop at the eastern end of the circuit, branching off at Turn Four.
- ▶ Lewis Hamilton, Sebastian Vettel and Nico Rosberg have locked out the podium for the first three races of 2015. No previous F1 season has had only three drivers on the podium after the first three rounds of the championship.
- ▶ Bahrain has twice hosted the opening round of the championship, in 2006 and 2010. Of the drivers racing in the 2015 Championship, Bahrain saw the debuts of Nico Rosberg in 2006 and Nico Hülkenberg in 2010.

# Bahrain GP

## Race Stewards

### Biographies

#### **PAUL GUTJAHR**

##### **PRESIDENT OF THE FIA HILL CLIMB COMMISSION, BOARD MEMBER AND PRESIDENT OF AUTO SPORT SUISSE 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.



#### **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.



#### **MIKA SALO**

##### **FORMER F1 DRIVER**

In a racing career now into its third decade, Mika Salo competed in over 100 grands prix between 1994-2002. After junior success in Britain and Japan, Salo made his Formula One debut for Lotus at the last two rounds of the 1994 season. Over the next eight years the Finn drove for Tyrrell, Arrows, BAR, Ferrari, Sauber and Toyota. He twice finished on the podium for Ferrari and scored points for Toyota in the Japanese manufacturer's debut race. Since he called time on his F1 career, Salo has competed predominantly in sports cars, most notably racing in GT classes. He has GT2 victories at both Le Mans and Sebring, and in 2007 won the GT class in ALMS. He has also tried his hand in CART and Australian V8s. Salo is still a familiar face in the Formula One paddock, working extensively for Finnish TV.







# Bahrain GP

## Formula One Timetable & FIA Media Schedule

### THURSDAY

Press conference 15.00

### FRIDAY

Practice session 1 14.00-15.30

Practice session 2 18.00-19.30

Press conference 20.00

### SATURDAY

Practice session 3 15.00-16.00

Qualifying 18.00-19.00

Followed by unilateral and press conference

### SUNDAY

Drivers' Parade 16.30

Race 18.00

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 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 his team's garage/hospitality.

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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