FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'AUTOMOBILE

Race Preview

2017 ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX

24 – 26 November 2017

Round 20 of the 2017 FIA Formula One World Championship takes place this weekend at the Yas Marina Circuit, home of the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. This is the final destination of a season that began on March 26th in Melbourne.

F1's only day/night race, the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix has established itself as a popular end-of-season destination and, also a favoured testing venue, regularly hosting a post-season test. This is partially because the facilities are excellent but also because the circuit offers a variety of challenges that test every aspect of car performance.

The three sectors of the lap are quite different: the first features high speed turns, the second has long straights, while the final sector around the marina is low-speed and highly technical. The cars also experience heavy braking demands but also need good traction out of the low-speed corners, tight chicanes and hairpin.

As is the case with the night race in Bahrain, the first and third practice sessions take place in full daylight. Their usefulness in preparing for twilight qualifying and a twilight race is limited, as track temperature changes fundamentally alter the car balance. Thus, much greater emphasis is placed on FP2, which shares a start time of 1700 – half an hour before sunset – with both qualifying and the race.

Pirelli are bringing their three softest compounds to Yas. The circuit is relatively smooth and gentle on rubber. Last year the top three all made two stops, though Max Verstappen finished in fourth place on a one-stop strategy.

With both titles decided, attention moves to the minor placings with several fierce battles to be decided. In the Drivers' Championship, second place is still in play, with Sebastian Vettel 22 points ahead of Valtteri Bottas. Fourth is also undecided, with Daniel Ricciardo seven points ahead of Kimi Räikkönen. At the other end of the table, Marcus Ericsson, Pierre Gasly and Brendon Hartley will be keen to register a first point of the year. In the Constructors' Championship the major interest lies with the midfield battle for sixth, seventh and eighth. Toro Rosso currently lead that fight with 53 points, to Renault's 49 and Haas' 47.

YAS MARINA CIRCUIT

Length of lap:
5.554km

Lap record:
1:40.279 (Sebastian Vettel, Red Bull Racing, 2009)

Start line/finish line offset:
0.115km

Total number of race laps:
55

Total race distance:
305.355km

Pitlane speed limits:
80km/h in practice, qualifying, and the race

CIRCUIT NOTES

- Additional TecPro has been installed in parts of the barriers at turns 8 and 21

DRS ZONE

- There will be two DRS zones at Yas Marina. The first detection point will be 40m before Turn 7, with the activation point 390m after Turn 7. The second detection point will be 50m after Turn 9 with the activation point at the apex of Turn 10.

ROUND 20	ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX	START TIME	17:00 Local - 13:00 GMT
RACE DATE:	26 NOV 2017	CIRCUIT LENGTH:	5.554KM
CIRCUIT NAME:	YAS MARINA CIRCUIT	RACE DISTANCE:	305.355KM
NUMBER OF LAPS:	55	LAP RECORD:	1:40.279 - S Vettel [2009]

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

FAST FACTS

- This is the ninth Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. It first appeared on the calendar in 2009 and has been a fixture ever since.

- Sebastian Vettel (2009, 2010, 2013) and Lewis Hamilton (2011, 2014, 2016) are the most successful drivers at Yas Marina with three wins each. Mercedes and Red Bull Racing are the most successful constructors, likewise tied on three wins each.

- Vettel's wins all came for Red Bull but Hamilton is the only driver to have the distinction of winning the race for two constructors, taking his first Abu Dhabi victory for McLaren and the latter pair with Mercedes. The other winners at the circuit are Kimi Räikkönen, who won for Lotus in 2012, and Nico Rosberg, who won for Mercedes in 2015.

- Hamilton also has three pole positions, starting from P1 at the inaugural race in 2009, in 2012 and last year. Pole hasn't been particularly lucky: the winner has started from pole three times (2010, 2015, 2016) – but equally, three times (2009, 2011, 2012) the polesitter has recorded a DNF, while 2014 polesitter Rosberg was classified 14th after an ERS failure. The race has been won from second on the grid four times, with Räikkönen's win in 2012 coming from the furthest back. He started fourth.

- The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix has always been held in November and has hosted the season finale five times. Three of those have been Drivers' Championship deciders. Victory for Sebastian Vettel in 2010 gave him a first title, ahead of Fernando Alonso, Mark Webber and Hamilton. Victory for Hamilton in 2014 gave him the title ahead of team-mate Rosberg, but second place to Hamilton in 2016 was enough to clinch the title for Rosberg. The Constructors' Championship has never been decided at Yas Marina.

- Hamilton has amassed the most points of any driver in Abu Dhabi with 142. The figure is slightly skewed, however, as he won in 2014, a race unique in that it awarded double points.

- Pierre Gasly, Brendon Hartley, Lance Stroll and Stoffel Vandoorne all make their Yas Marina F1 debut this weekend. Stroll hasn't raced at Yas but the others have all competed here in GP2. Hartley in the 2010 championship, finishing ninth and sixth shortly after making a late-season debut. Gasly raced at Yas in 2014-2016, taking victory last year in the feature race, helping him to the title. Vandoorne appeared in 2014 and 2015, winning the feature race on both occasions. The Belgian also tested F1 cars at the circuit. He drove the McLaren MP4-29H mule, which ran for five laps over two days when Honda introduced their F1 engine at the end of 2014, but managed 99 laps a year later at the end of season test.

- Of the many intra-team battles to be decided this weekend, the tightest are those at Williams, with two points the difference between Massa (42) and Stroll (40), and at McLaren, with Alonso (15) and Vandoorne (13) also separated by two points. The drivers furthest apart are Ferrari's Vettel and Raikkonen, separated by 102 points.

RACE STEWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

TIM MAYER

FIA ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO THE USA, FIA STEWARD

As the son of former McLaren team principal Teddy Mayer, Tim Mayer grew up around motor sport. He organised IndyCar races internationally from 1992-98, aided the construction of several circuits, and produced international TV for multiple series. In 1998 he became CART's Senior VP for Racing Operations. He also became VP of ACCUS, the US ASN. In 2003, Mayer became COO of IMSA, operating multiple series at all levels, and also took on the role of COO and Race Director of the American Le Mans Series. He was elected an independent Director of ACCUS and FIA US Alternate Delegate, responsible for US World Championship events.

ENZO SPANO

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.

EMANUELE PIRRO

FORMER FORMULA ONE DRIVER AND FIVE-TIMES LE MANS WINNER

During a motor sport career spanning almost 40 years, Emanuele Pirro has achieved a huge amount of success, most notably in sportscar racing, with five Le Mans wins, victory at the Daytona 24 Hours and two wins at the Sebring 12 Hours. In addition, the Italian driver has won the German and Italian Touring Car championships (the latter twice) and has twice been American Le Mans Series Champion. Pirro, enjoyed a three-season F1 career from 1989 to 1991, firstly with Benetton and then for Scuderia Italia. His debut as an FIA Steward came at the 2010 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix and he has returned regularly since.

2017 Formula One World Championship

DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

		AUSTRALIA	CHINA	BAHRAIN	RUSSIA	SPAIN	MONACO	CANADA	AZERBAIJAN	AUSTRIA	GB	HUNGARY	BELGIUM	ITALY	SINGAPORE	MALAYSIA	JAPAN	USA	MEXICO	BRAZIL	ABU DHABI	POINTS
1	L. HAMILTON	18 2	25 1	18 2	12 4	25 1	6 7	25 1	10 5	12 4	25 1	12 4	25 1	25 1	25 1	18 2	25 1	25 1	2 9	12 4		345
2	S. VETTEL	25 1	18 2	25 1	18 2	18 2	25 1	12 4	12 4	18 2	6 7	25 1	18 2	15 3	NC	12 4	NC	18 2	12 4	25 1		302
3	V. BOTTAS	15 3	8 6	15 3	25 1	NC	12 4	18 2	18 2	25 1	18 2	15 3	10 5	18 2	15 3	10 5	12 4	10 5	18 2	18 2		280
4	D. RICCIARDO	NC	12 4	10 5	NC	15 3	15 3	15 3	25 1	15 3	10 5	NC	15 3	12 4	18 2	15 3	15 3	NC	NC	8 6		200
5	K. RÄIKKÖNEN	12 4	10 5	12 4	15 3	NC	18 2	6 7	14	10 5	15 3	18 2	12 4	10 5	NC	NC	10 5	15 3	15 3	15 3		193
6	M. VERSTAPPEN	10 5	15 3	NC	10 5	NC	10 5	NC	NC	NC	12 4	10 5	NC	1 10	NC	25 1	18 2	12 4	25 1	10 5		158
7	S. PÉREZ	6 7	2 9	6 7	8 6	12 4	13	10 5	NC	6 7	2 9	4 8	17	2 9	10 5	8 6	6 7	4 8	6 7	2 9		94
8	E. OCON	1 10	1 10	1 10	6 7	10 5	12	8 6	8 6	4 8	4 8	2 9	2 9	8 6	1 10	1 10	8 6	8 6	10 5	NC		83
9	C. SAINZ	4 8	6 7	NC	1 10	6 7	8 6	NC	4 8	NC	NC	6 7	1 10	14	12 4	NC	NC	6 7	NC	11		54
10	F. MASSA	8 6	14	8 6	2 9	13	2 9	NC	NC	2 9	1 10	–	4 8	4 8	11	2 9	1 10	2 9	11	6 7		42
11	L. STROLL	NC	NC	NC	11	16	15	2 9	15 3	1 10	16	14	11	6 7	4 8	4 8	NC	11	8 6	16		40
12	N. HÜLKENBERG	11	12	2 9	4 8	8 6	NC	4 8	NC	13	8 6	17	8 6	13	NC	16	NC	NC	NC	1 10		35
13	R. GROSJEAN	NC	11	4 8	NC	1 10	4 8	1 10	13	8 6	13	NC	6 7	15	2 9	13	2 9	14	15	15		28
14	K. MAGNUSSEN	NC	4 8	NC	13	14	1 10	12	6 7	NC	12	13	15	11	NC	12	4 8	16	4 8	NC		19
15	F. ALONSO	NC	NC	14	NC	12	_	16	2 9	NC	NC	8 6	NC	17	NC	11	11	NC	1 10	4 8		15
16	S. VANDOORNE	13	NC	NC	14	NC	NC	14	12	12	11	1 10	14	NC	6 7	6 7	14	12	12	NC		13
17	J. PALMER	NC	13	13	NC	15	11	11	NC	11	NC	12	13	NC	8 6	15	12	–	–	–		8
18	P. WEHRLEIN	–	–	11	16	4 8	NC	15	1 10	14	17	15	NC	16	12	17	15	NC	14	14		5
19	D. KVYAT	2 9	NC	12	12	2 9	14	NC	NC	16	15	11	12	12	NC	–	–	1 10	–	–		5
20	M. ERICSSON	NC	15	NC	15	11	NC	13	11	15	14	16	16	18	NC	18	NC	15	NC	13		0
21	P. GASLY	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	14	13	–	13	12		0
22	A. GIOVINAZZI	12	NC	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		0
23	B. HARTLEY	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	NC	NC		0
24	J. BUTTON	–	–	–	–	–	NC	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		0
25	P. DI RESTA	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	NC	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		0

2017 Formula One World Championship

CONSTRUCTORS' CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

		AUSTRALIA	CHINA	BAHRAIN	RUSSIA	SPAIN	MONACO	CANADA	AZERBAIJAN	AUSTRIA	GB	HUNGARY	BELGIUM	ITALY	SINGAPORE	MALAYSIA	JAPAN	USA	MEXICO	BRAZIL	ABU DHABI	POINTS
1	MERCEDES AMG PETRONAS F1 TEAM	33 2 3	33 1 6	33 2 3	37 1 4	25 1 NC	18 4 7	43 1 2	28 2 5	37 1 4	43 1 2	27 3 4	35 1 5	43 1 2	40 1 3	28 2 5	37 1 4	35 1 5	20 2 9	30 2 4		625
2	SCUDERIA FERRARI	37 1 4	28 2 5	37 1 4	33 2 3	18 2 NC	43 1 2	18 4 7	12 4 14	28 2 5	21 3 7	43 1 2	30 2 4	25 3 5	 NC NC	12 4 NC	10 5 NC	33 2 3	27 3 4	40 1 3		495
3	RED BULL RACING	10 5 NC	27 3 4	10 5 NC	10 5 NC	15 3 NC	25 3 5	15 3 NC	25 1 NC	15 3 NC	22 4 5	10 5 NC	15 3 NC	13 4 10	18 2 NC	40 1 3	33 2 3	12 4 NC	25 1 NC	18 5 6		358
4	SAHARA FORCE INDIA F1 TEAM	7 7 10	3 9 10	7 7 10	14 6 7	22 4 5	 12 13	18 5 6	8 6 NC	10 7 8	6 8 9	6 8 9	2 9 17	10 6 9	11 5 10	9 6 10	14 6 7	12 6 8	16 5 7	2 9 NC		177
5	WILLIAMS MARTINI RACING	8 6 NC	 14 NC	8 6 NC	2 9 11	 13 16	2 9 15	2 9 NC	15 3 NC	3 9 10	1 10 16	 14 NC	4 8 11	10 7 8	4 8 11	6 8 9	1 10 NC	2 9 11	8 6 11	6 7 16		82
6	SCUDERIA TORO ROSSO	6 8 9	6 7 NC	 12 NC	1 10 12	8 7 9	8 6 14	 NC NC	4 8 NC	 16 NC	 15 NC	6 7 11	1 10 12	 12 14	12 4 NC	 14 NC	 13 NC	1 10 13	 13 NC	 12 NC		53
7	RENAULT SPORT F1 TEAM	 11 NC	 12 13	2 9 13	4 8 NC	8 6 15	 11 NC	4 8 11	 NC NC	 11 13	8 6 NC	 12 17	8 6 13	 13 NC	8 6 NC	 15 16	 12 NC	6 7 NC	 NC NC	1 10 11		49
8	HAAS F1 TEAM	 NC NC	4 8 11	4 8 NC	 13 NC	1 10 14	5 8 10	1 10 12	6 7 13	8 6 NC	 12 13	 13 NC	6 7 15	 11 15	2 9 NC	 12 13	6 8 9	 14 16	4 8 15	 15 NC		47
9	McLAREN HONDA	 13 NC	 NC NC	 14 NC	 14 NC	 12 NC	 NC NC	 14 16	2 9 12	 12 NC	 11 NC	9 6 10	 14 NC	 17 NC	6 7 NC	6 7 11	 11 14	 12 NC	1 10 12	4 8 NC		28
10	SAUBER F1 TEAM	 12 NC	 15 NC	 11 NC	 15 16	4 8 11	 NC NC	 13 15	1 10 11	 14 15	 14 17	 15 16	 16 NC	 16 18	 12 NC	 17 18	 15 NC	 15 NC	 14 NC	 13 14		5

FORMULA ONE TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Press conference 1500

FRIDAY

Practice session 1 1300-1430
Practice session 2 1700-1830
Press conference 1900

SATURDAY

Practice session 3 1400-1500
Qualifying 1700-1800
Followed by unilateral and press conference

SUNDAY

Drivers' Parade 1530
Race 1700
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 media centre.

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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FIA ACTION FOR ROAD SAFETY