



Race Preview

2017 JAPANESE GRAND PRIX

06 – 08 October 2017

A few short days after an exciting and eventful Malaysian Grand Prix, teams and drivers reassemble at the Suzuka Circuit for the Japanese Grand Prix, round 16 of the 2017 Formula One World Championship.

Appropriately for a circuit designed as a test track, Suzuka tests everything, with an array of high, medium and low-speed corners that ensure the circuit defies easy classification.

As was the case last week in Malaysia, the medium, soft and supersoft tyres will be available in Japan. Suzuka, however, has lateral loads much higher than those at Sepang, meaning the successful one-stop strategies of last weekend will not be the automatic choice here. The extra grip on offer in 2017 will, however, be more noticeable at Suzuka with higher speeds in the many famous corners. The start of the lap, through the Esses, Dunlop and Degner One and Two, is likely to be particularly spectacular.

Second place at Sepang on Sunday ended Lewis Hamilton's run of three consecutive victories but it was sufficient for the Mercedes driver to increase his Drivers' Championship advantage over Sebastian Vettel by a further six points and he now leads the Ferrari driver by 34. Mercedes also strengthened their grip on the Constructors' Championship and they are now 118 points ahead of Ferrari.

The raw statistics perhaps hide the true level of competitiveness among the frontrunners as the final quarter of the 2017 season begins: in recent weeks attrition, rather than raw pace, has strengthened the relative positions of Hamilton and Mercedes: Ferrari have looked strong at two very different South-East Asian circuits but have taken only 12 points. Despite victory and third place in Malaysia, Red Bull Racing have slipped out of mathematical contention in the Constructors' Championship but as a disruptive influence, capable of competing with the teams and drivers fighting for the titles, they have strong potential to affect the unfolding title battle.



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

- ▶ Additional tyres, conveyor belts and tube inserts have been fitted to the existing tyre barriers in Turns 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 13.
- ▶ New double kerbs have been installed on the exit of Turns 1 and 2 and the artificial grass has been replaced with asphalt.

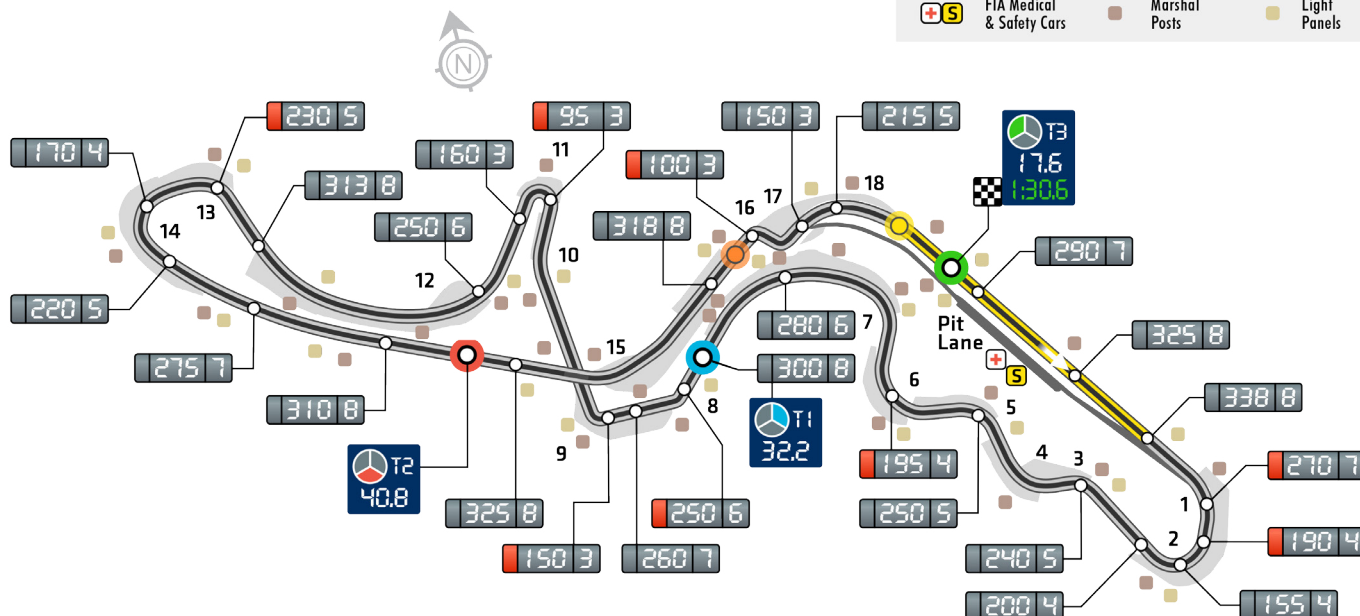
DRS ZONES

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

ROUND 16	JAPANESE GRAND PRIX	START TIME	14:00 Local - 05:00 GMT
RACE DATE:	08 OCT 2017	CIRCUIT LENGTH:	5.807KM
CIRCUIT NAME:	SUZUKA CIRCUIT	RACE DISTANCE:	307.471KM
NUMBER OF LAPS:	53	LAP RECORD:	1:31.540 - K Raikkonen [2005]

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

KEY		Speed Kmh	Sector Time	Timing Sector	Lap Time
Braking	190 4	Gear		T3	17.6
					1:30.6
	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 33rd Japanese Grand Prix. The race debuted at the Fuji Speedway in 1976 and returned in 1977, before disappearing off the calendar for a decade until its reappearance in 1987 at Suzuka. It has been held at Suzuka every year since except for 2007 and 2008, when it made a brief return to Fuji.
- McLaren are the most successful team at the Japanese Grand Prix with nine victories. Two of those victories are, however, at Fuji. At Suzuka they are tied with Ferrari on seven wins each.
- Michael Schumacher is the most successful driver in Japanese Grand Prix history with six victories, winning for Benetton in 1995 and Ferrari in 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2004. Even more impressive than his record at the Japanese Grand Prix is his record in Japan overall: in 1994 and 1995 he also won the Pacific Grands Prix at Aida.
- The current field features four Japanese Grand Prix winners, of whom Sebastian Vettel is the most successful with victories in 2009, 2010, 2012 and 2013. Fernando Alonso and Lewis Hamilton have the distinction of winning at both Suzuka and Fuji: Alonso at Suzuka in 2006 and Fuji in 2008, Hamilton at Fuji in 2007 and Suzuka in 2014 and 2015. The other winner in the field is Kimi Räikkönen who won at Suzuka in 2005.
- Räikkönen's victory is the only one at either track to come from a driver starting outside the top six. He started 17th. Thirteen times from 28 races at Suzuka, the winner has started on pole. It hasn't proved hugely advantageous, as the driver starting from P2 has won 11 times.
- Alessandro Nannini remains the only driver to take a maiden F1 victory at the Japanese Grand Prix. Driving for Benetton, the Italian was initially classified second but was promoted when Ayrton Senna was disqualified.
- The World Championship for Drivers has been settled in Japan 12 times. James Hunt took the title at the dramatic first race, in Fuji. The title has since been clinched at Suzuka by Nelson Piquet (1987), Ayrton Senna (1988, 1990, 1991), Alain Prost (1989), Damon Hill (1996), Mika Häkkinen (1998, 1999), Michael Schumacher (2000, 2003) and most recently Sebastian Vettel (2011).
- Lewis Hamilton's second place at Sepang last week was his 20th consecutive points-scoring race. His last non-scoring race came in Malaysia last year when an engine failure caused him to retire from the lead. Last year's Japanese Grand Prix saw Hamilton celebrate his 100th podium finish.
- Three drivers will be contesting an F1 race at Suzuka for the first time this weekend. McLaren's Stoffel Vandoorne knows the circuit well, having raced here three times in the 2016 Japanese Super Formula series, including a victory at the final race of the season. Pierre Gasly is contesting Super Formula this year, and raced at Suzuka in the opening round of the season. Lance Stroll races at Suzuka for the first time.

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.



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.



TOM KRISTENSEN

1980 NINE TIME LE MANS WINNER, GERMAN F3 CHAMPION (1991), JAPANESE F3 CHAMPION (1993) ALMS CHAMPION (2001)

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. 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.



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						281
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						247
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						222
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						177
5	K. RÄIKKÖNEN	12 ₄	10 ₅	12 ₄	15 ₃	NC	18 ₂	6 ₇	NC	10 ₅	15 ₃	18 ₂	12 ₄	10 ₅	NC	NC						138
6	M. VERSTAPPEN	10 ₅	15 ₃	NC	10 ₅	NC	10 ₅	NC	NC	NC	12 ₄	10 ₅	NC	1	NC	25 ₁						93
7	S. PÉREZ	6 ₇	2 ₉	6 ₇	8 ₆	12 ₄	NC	10 ₅	NC	6 ₇	2 ₉	4 ₈	NC	2 ₉	10 ₅	8 ₆						76
8	E. OCON	1 ₁₀	1 ₁₀	1 ₁₀	6 ₇	10 ₅	NC	8 ₆	8 ₆	4 ₈	4 ₈	2 ₉	2 ₉	8 ₆	1 ₁₀	1 ₁₀						57
9	C. SAINZ	4 ₈	6 ₇	NC	1 ₁₀	6 ₇	8 ₆	NC	4 ₈	NC	NC	6 ₇	1 ₁₀	NC	12 ₄	NC						48
10	N. HÜLKENBERG	NC	NC	2 ₉	4 ₈	8 ₆	NC	4 ₈	NC	NC	8 ₆	NC	8 ₆	NC	NC	NC						34
11	F. MASSA	8 ₆	NC	8 ₆	2 ₉	NC	2 ₉	NC	NC	2 ₉	1 ₁₀	NC	4 ₈	4 ₈	NC	2 ₉						33
12	L. STROLL	NC	NC	NC	11 ₁₆	16 ₁₅	NC	2 ₉	15 ₃	1 ₁₀	16 ₁₄	14 ₁₁	NC	6 ₇	4 ₈	4 ₈						32
13	R. GROSJEAN	NC	11 ₈	4 ₈	NC	1 ₁₀	4 ₈	1 ₁₀	NC	8 ₆	13 ₆	NC	6 ₇	NC	2 ₉	13 ₉						26
14	S. VANDOORNE	13 ₁₃	NC	NC	14 ₁₄	NC	NC	14 ₁₂	12 ₁₂	11 ₁₁	10 ₁₀	14 ₁₄	NC	NC	6 ₇	6 ₇						13
15	K. MAGNUSSEN	NC	4 ₈	NC	13 ₁₃	14 ₁₄	1 ₁₀	12 ₇	6 ₇	NC	12 ₁₂	13 ₁₃	15 ₁₅	11 ₁₁	NC	12 ₁₂						11
16	F. ALONSO	NC	NC	14 ₁₄	NC	12 ₁₂	NC	16 ₁₆	2 ₉	NC	NC	8 ₆	NC	17 ₁₇	NC	11 ₁₁						10
17	J. PALMER	NC	13 ₁₃	13 ₁₃	NC	15 ₁₅	11 ₁₁	11 ₁₁	NC	11 ₁₁	NC	12 ₁₂	13 ₁₃	NC	8 ₆	15 ₁₅						8
18	P. WEHRLEIN	NC	NC	11 ₁₆	16 ₁₅	4 ₈	NC	15 ₁₅	1 ₁₀	14 ₁₄	17 ₁₇	15 ₁₅	NC	16 ₁₆	12 ₁₂	17 ₁₇						5
19	D. KVIAT	2 ₉	NC	12 ₁₂	12 ₁₂	2 ₉	14 ₁₄	NC	NC	16 ₁₆	15 ₁₅	11 ₁₁	12 ₁₂	12 ₁₂	NC	NC						4
20	M. ERICSSON	NC	15 ₁₅	NC	15 ₁₅	11 ₁₁	NC	13 ₁₃	11 ₁₁	15 ₁₅	14 ₁₄	16 ₁₆	16 ₁₆	18 ₁₈	NC	18 ₁₈						0
21	A. GIOVINAZZI	12 ₁₂	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC						0
22	P. GASLY	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	14 ₁₄						0
23	J. BUTTON	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC						0
24	P. DI RESTA	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	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						503
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						385
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						270
4	SAHARA FORCE INDIA F1 TEAM	7 7 10	3 9 10	7 7 10	14 6 7	22 4 5	NC 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						133
5	WILLIAMS MARTINI RACING	8 6 NC	NC 14 NC	8 6 NC	2 9 11	NC 13 16	2 9 15	2 9 NC	15 3 NC	3 9 10	1 10 16	NC 14 NC	4 8 11	10 7 8	4 8 11	6 8 9						65
6	SCUDERIA TORO ROSSO	6 8 9	6 7 NC	NC 12 NC	1 10 12	8 7 9	8 6 14	NC NC NC	4 8 NC	NC 16 NC	NC 15 NC	6 7 11	1 10 12	8 12 14	12 4 NC	NC 14 NC						52
7	RENAULT SPORT F1 TEAM	NC 11 NC	NC 12 13	2 9 13	4 8 NC	8 6 15	NC 11 NC	4 8 11	NC NC NC	NC 11 13	8 6 NC	NC 12 17	8 6 13	NC 13 NC	8 6 NC	NC 15 16						42
8	HAAS F1 TEAM	NC NC	4 8 11	4 8 NC	NC 13 NC	1 10 14	5 8 10	1 10 12	6 7 13	8 6 NC	NC 12 13	NC 13 NC	6 7 15	NC 11 15	2 9 NC	NC 12 13						37
9	MCLAREN HONDA	NC 13 NC	NC NC	14 NC	14 NC	12 NC	NC NC	14 16	2 9 12	NC 12 NC	11 NC	9 6 10	14 NC	17 NC	6 7 NC	6 7 11						23
10	SAUBER F1 TEAM	NC 12 NC	15 NC	11 NC	15 16	8 11	NC NC	13 15	1 10 11	NC 14 15	14 17	15 16	16 NC	16 18	12 NC	17 18						5

FORMULA ONE TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Press conference 1500

FRIDAY

Practice session 1 1000-1130

Practice session 2 1400-1530

Press conference 1600

SATURDAY

Practice session 3 1200-1300

Qualifying 1500-1600

Followed by unilateral and press conference

SUNDAY

Drivers' Parade 1230

Race 1400

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 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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