



Race Preview

2018 AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

23 – 25 March 2018

The 2018 FIA Formula 1 World Championship kicks off this weekend at the season's traditional curtain-raiser, the Australian Grand Prix at the Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit in Albert Park.

The temporary track around the Albert Park lake provides a tough test for drivers, engineers and their new machinery. A street circuit, the Albert Park surface lacks grip early in the weekend and for drivers the early practice sessions on a narrow layout featuring close barriers are about building performance slowly as the tracks 'rubbers in' - no easy task as they prepare to run their new cars in anger for the first time. For teams, the high track evolution at this unrepresentative venue, makes set-up something of a moving target, again a tricky prospect as they attempt to optimise performance of cars with just two weeks of pre-season testing data to draw upon.

A further variable comes in the shape of a new range of tyres for 2018, with tyre manufacturer Pirelli increasing the number of dry tyre compounds to seven. A new pink-banded hypersoft tyre has been introduced while at the harder end of the spectrum the familiar orange-banded hard compound of last year becomes an ultrahard compound while the hard tyre gets a new ice-blue livery. On offer this weekend in Melbourne are the yellow-marked soft, the red supersoft and the purple ultrasoft.

While this weekend will offer the first real indication of the pecking order among F1's teams, pre-season testing indicates that the battle for this season's titles is once again likely to be fought by 2017's top three teams, champions Mercedes, runners-up Ferrari and third-placed Red Bull Racing.

Formula 1's midfield is meanwhile set to be another extremely tight contest with last year's fourth-placed outfit, Force India, likely to face stiff competition from Renault, Williams Toro Rosso and potential dark horses Haas, while reinvigorated McLaren and Sauber looks set to join the fray after difficult recent seasons.



MELBOURNE GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT

Length of lap:

5.303km

Lap record:

1:24.125 (Michael Schumacher, Ferrari, 2004)

Start line/finish line offset:

0.000km

Total number of race laps:

58

Total race distance:

307.574km

Pitlane speed limits:

60km/h in practice, qualifying, and the race

CIRCUIT NOTES

- ▶ The kerb on the exit of Turn 5 has been lengthened by 5 metres.
- ▶ The kerb on the exit of Turn 12 has again been ground down to remove a bump that proved troublesome in 2017.
- ▶ The kerbs on the exit of Turns 13 and 14 have been renewed, using 50mm negative kerbs.

DRS ZONE

- ▶ There will be three DRS zones at the Australian Grand Prix. The first detection point is 170m before Turn 11, with the Zone 1 activation point coming 104m after Turn 12. The second detection point, shared by Zones 2 and 3, is 13m before Turn 14. The activation point for Zone 2 is 30m after Turn 16, while the activation point for Zone 3 is 32m after Turn 2.

ROUND 01	AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX	START TIME	16:10 Local - 05:10 GMT
RACE DATE:	25 MAR 2018	CIRCUIT LENGTH:	5.303KM
CIRCUIT NAME:	ALBERT PARK CIRCUIT	RACE DISTANCE:	307.574KM
NUMBER OF LAPS:	58	LAP RECORD:	1:24.125 - M Schumacher [2004]

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

KEY		Speed Kmh	Sector Time	Timing Sector	Lap Time
Braking	130 3	Gear		T3	32.9
					1:22.2
●	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 will be the 34th F1 Australian Grand Prix and the 23rd to be held at Melbourne's Albert Park. The race joined the calendar in 1985, with the first race being held in Adelaide. It moved to Melbourne in 1996.
- ▶ The most successful driver here is Michael Schumacher, with the German winning four times from 19 attempts. He recorded a hat-tricks of wins from 2000 to 2002 and then won again in 2004 – all for Ferrari. Next on the list is Jenson Button. The Briton won for Brawn GP in 2009 and then scored a brace of victories for McLaren in 2010 and 2012.
- ▶ Four current drivers have Australian Grand Prix victories to their name, with three scoring a brace of wins, doing so with a different team on each occasion. Kimi Räikkönen won for Ferrari in 2007 and then for Lotus in 2013. Lewis Hamilton won with McLaren in 2008 and with Mercedes in 2015, and Sebastian Vettel won with Red Bull Racing in 2011 and then with Ferrari last year. The only other current driver to have won at Albert Park is Fernando Alonso, who won with Renault all the way back in 2006.
- ▶ Haas' Kevin Magnussen scored his maiden podium finish at the Australian Grand Prix in 2014. It was the Dane's grand prix debut and he finished second for McLaren, behind winner Nico Rosberg of Mercedes and ahead of third-placed McLaren team-mate Jenson Button.
- ▶ Seven other drivers made their first podium appearance at the Australian GP: Philippe Streiff (1985) and Gianni Morbidelli (1995) tasted the champagne in Adelaide, while Jacques Villeneuve (1996), Räikkönen (2002), Hamilton (2007), Nico Rosberg (2008) and Vitaly Petrov (2011) all took their maiden podium finishes at Albert Park.
- ▶ Ayrton Senna and Lewis Hamilton jointly hold the Australian Grand Prix pole position record, with six apiece. All of Senna's were scored in Adelaide, while Hamilton's have all come at Albert Park. The Briton kicked off his record run in 2008 with McLaren and then doubled his Australian tally in 2012, again with McLaren. He has since taken pole four times for Mercedes – in each of the past four years. 2016's effort was Hamilton's 50th career pole and he currently has 72 to his name. Only two other current drivers have been on pole here: Räikkönen in 2007, and Vettel, who has three Melbourne poles to his credit, in 2010, 2011 and 2013.
- ▶ Hamilton holds the outright record for podium appearances in Australia, with seven. Allied to his pair of wins, he finished second in 2011, 2016 and last year, and took third in 2007 and 2012.
- ▶ Albert Park will be virgin territory for four drivers this weekend. Reigning F2 champion Charles Leclerc makes his F1 race debut with Sauber, and multiple race-winning former GP2 driver and former Renault reserve driver Sergey Sirotkin starts for Williams. However, while Toro Rosso's Pierre Gasly and Brendon Hartley made a total of nine grand prix starts in 2017, neither has raced at this circuit before.

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

CONSTRUCTORS' CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL 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	43 1 2	668
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	27 3 4	522
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	10 5 NC	368
4	SAHARA FORCE INDIA F1 TEAM	7 7 10	3 9 10	7 7 10	14 6 7	22 4 5	18 12 13	8 5 6	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	10 7 8	187	
5	WILLIAMS MARTINI RACING	8 6 NC	14 NC	8 6 NC	2 9 11	2 13 16	2 9 NC	15 3 NC	3 9 10	1 10 16	1 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	1 10 18	83	
6	RENAULT SPORT F1 TEAM	11 NC	12 13	2 9 13	4 8 NC	8 6 15	11 11 NC	4 8 11	NC NC	11 13 NC	8 6 NC	12 17	6 13	13 NC	8 6 NC	15 16	12 NC	7 NC	NC NC	10 11	8 6 NC	57
7	SCUDERIA TORO ROSSO	6 8 9	6 7 NC	12 12 NC	1 10 12	8 7 9	8 6 14	4 NC NC	8 16 NC	15 15 NC	6 7 11	1 10 12	12 14	12 4 NC	14 14 NC	13 13 NC	10 10 13	13 13 NC	12 12 NC	15 15 16	53	
8	HAAS F1 TEAM	NC NC	4 8 11	4 8 NC	1 13 NC	5 10 14	1 8 10	6 10 12	8 7 13	12 6 NC	13 13 NC	6 7 15	11 15	9 9 NC	12 13	6 8 9	14 16	8 15	15 15 NC	11 11 13	47	
9	MCLAREN HONDA	13 NC	NC NC	14 14 NC	14 12 NC	NC 12 NC	14 14 16	2 9 12	12 12 NC	11 11 NC	9 6 10	14 14 NC	17 17 NC	6 7 NC	6 7 11	11 14	12 12 NC	10 10 12	4 8 NC	2 9 12	30	
10	SAUBER F1 TEAM	12 NC	15 NC	11 11 NC	15 16	4 8 11	NC 13 15	1 10 11	14 14 15	14 14 17	15 15 16	16 16 NC	16 18	12 12 NC	17 18	15 15 NC	15 15 NC	14 14 NC	13 14	14 17	5	

FORMULA ONE TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Press conference 15.00

FRIDAY

Practice session 1 12.00-13.30

Press conference 14.00

Practice session 2 16.00-17.30

SATURDAY

Practice session 3 14.00-15.00

Qualifying 17.00-18.00

Followed by unilateral and press conference

SUNDAY

Drivers' Parade 14.40

Race 16.10

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 interview pen is located in the paddock on the first grassed area to the left, next to the fountain.

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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