



Race Preview

2018 RUSSIAN GRAND PRIX

28 – 30 September 2018

This week, teams and drivers head to the Sochi Autodrom for Round 16 of the 2018 FIA Formula One World Championship: the Russian Grand Prix.

After examining the opposing ends of the speed spectrum in Monza and Singapore, Sochi represents something of a return to the middle ground for F1. The key characteristic of the circuit is the proliferation of 90°, medium-speed corners. Despite several bumps appearing over the last couple of years, Sochi remains a smooth circuit and has relatively flat kerbs. This will encourage teams to run their cars very stiff, potentially raising rear ride-height to help with turn-in.

The straights in Sochi are relatively long, which raises questions regarding downforce levels. More downforce makes the car more predictable and easier to position accurately in the corners – but at the cost of lower speed on the straights.

Sochi's reputation as a circuit with extremely low degradation is underlined in the tyre choices available for the race. As was the case in Singapore, Pirelli are bringing the soft compound but then bridge to the ultrasoft and hypersoft. All drivers have strongly favoured the softest end of the range, choosing between seven and 10 sets of the ultrasoft. The yellow-banded soft tyre – the hardest compound on offer – has not been popular. Fernando Alonso is an outlier with three sets; everybody else has either one or two.

Back-to-back victories in Italy and Singapore have lifted Lewis Hamilton into prime position to retain his Drivers' title. The Mercedes driver has a 40-point advantage over Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel with six races remaining. Things are tighter in the Constructors' Championship battle with Mercedes ahead by only 37 points, and every indication suggests that F1's two top teams are very closely matched for the run-in.



SOCHI AUTODROM

Length of lap:

5.848km

Lap record:

1:36.844 (Kimi Räikkönen, Ferrari, 2017)

Start line/finish line offset:

0.199km

Total number of race laps:

53

Total race distance:

309.745km

Pitlane speed limits:

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

CIRCUIT NOTES

- ▶ The track has been resurfaced on the approach to Turns 1 and 8. A section of the pit entry has also been resurfaced.

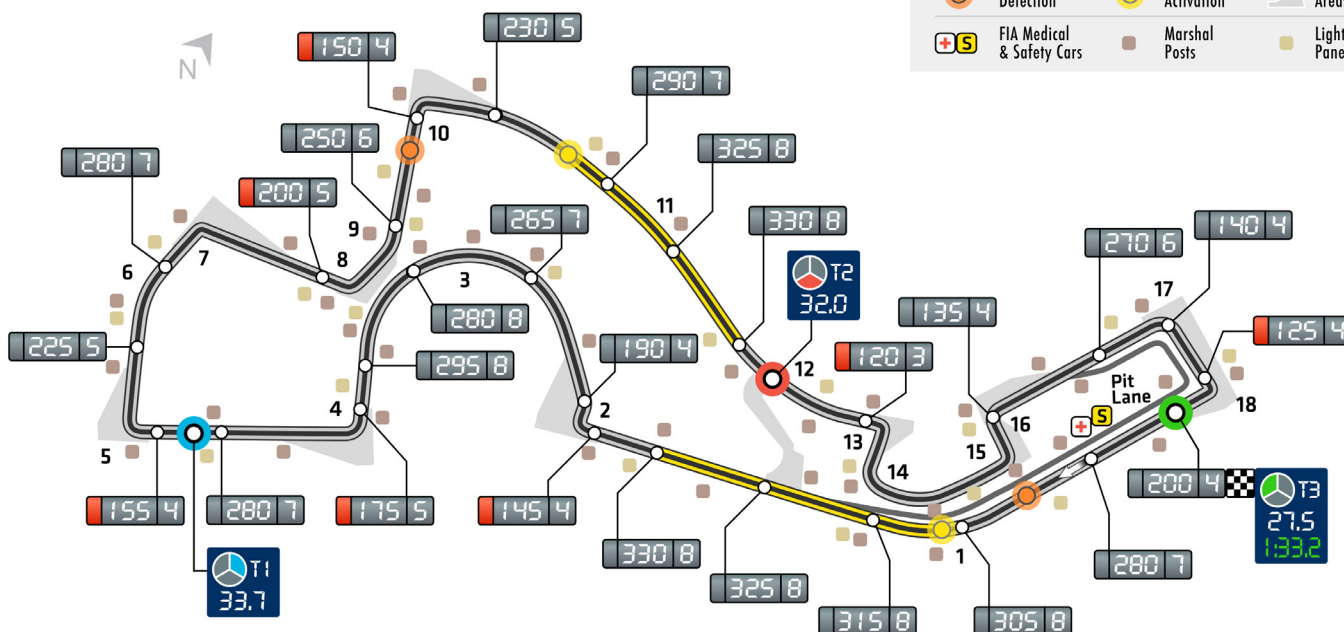
DRS ZONES

- ▶ The first of two DRS zones has its detection point 72m after Turn 18. Activation is 95m before Turn 1. Zone Two's detection is 72m before T10, with activation 203m after the corner.

ROUND 16	RUSSIAN GRAND PRIX	START TIME	14:10 Local - 11:10 GMT
RACE DATE:	30 SEP 2018	CIRCUIT LENGTH:	5.848KM
CIRCUIT NAME:	SOCHI AUTODROM	RACE DISTANCE:	303.897KM
NUMBER OF LAPS:	52	LAP RECORD:	1:36.844 - K Raikkonen [2017]

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

KEY		Speed Kmh	Sector Time	Timing Sector	Lap Time
Braking	140 4	Gear	T3	27.5	1:33.2
●	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 is the fifth FIA Formula One World Championship Russian Grand Prix. The race appeared on the calendar in 2014 and each race has been held at the Sochi Autodrom.
- ▶ Mercedes have a clean sweep of victories – albeit with three different drivers. Lewis Hamilton won the race in 2014 and 2015, Nico Rosberg took victory in 2016 and Valtteri Bottas won last year.
- ▶ Mercedes have taken three of the four pole positions in Russia to date. Hamilton was on pole for the inaugural event in 2014, and Rosberg had back-to-back poles in 2015 and 2016. Sebastian Vettel broke the chain last year, starting from P1 for Ferrari. The race was won from pole position in 2014 and 2016, from second in 2015 and from third on the grid in 2017.
- ▶ Ferrari have two of the four fastest laps at this circuit, thanks to Vettel in 2015 and Kimi Räikkönen last year. Bottas set the fastest lap at the inaugural race, driving for Williams, and Rosberg did so in 2016, as part of a dominant performance that saw him take pole, victory and fastest lap while leading every lap of the race. It was the first time Rosberg had achieved a so-called ‘grand chelem’, though he would do it again seven weeks later in Baku. His is the only such performance recorded in Sochi.
- ▶ Mercedes have taken half the podium spots available at this race. In addition to their four wins, the Brackley-based team took second place in 2014 with Rosberg and 2016 with Hamilton. Ferrari have four podiums, with Vettel second in 2015 and 2017, and Räikkönen third in 2016 and 2017. The two other podiums have both gone to Mercedes-powered teams: Williams took third place in 2014 with Bottas, while Force India was third in 2015 courtesy of Sergio Pérez. Hamilton’s second place in 2016 came from P10 on the grid – the furthest back from which a driver finishing on the podium has started.
- ▶ Nine of the current field have contested every Russian Grand Prix: they are Bottas; Marcus Ericsson; Romain Grosjean; Hamilton; Nico Hülkenberg; Pérez; Räikkönen; Daniel Ricciardo and Vettel. Of these, Hamilton, Räikkönen and Pérez are the only drivers to score in every race and Ericsson is the only one not to score at any. Fernando Alonso has qualified for each race but retired on the formation lap last year with an ERS failure.
- ▶ Underlining the reputation of the Russian Grand Prix as a one-stop race, only four from 40 points scorers have done so making two stops, and no two-stopper has finished higher than fifth. .
- ▶ Of the four drivers starting their first F1 race at the Sochi Autodrom this weekend, Sergey Sirotkin is the most familiar with the circuit. The Russian has been a test driver in Friday practice three times, appearing for Sauber in 2014 and Renault in 2016 and 2017 – albeit failing to set a time last year. He has also raced here in GP2, in 2015, finishing fourth in the feature race. Pierre Gasly raced in GP2 in 2014 and 2015, finishing second in 2015. Brendon Hartley and Charles Leclerc are making their Sochi debuts.
- ▶ In 2014 and 2015, Mercedes secured the Constructors’ Championship title in Russia. The race subsequently moved to an early-season slot.

RACE STEWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

GARRY CONNELLY

**DIRECTOR, GLOBAL INSTITUTE FOR MOTOR SPORT SAFETY;
DIRECTOR, AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MOTOR SPORT
SAFETY; F1 STEWARD; FIA WORLD MOTOR SPORT COUNCIL
MEMBER**

Garry Connelly has been involved in motor sport since the late 1960s. A long-time rally competitor, Connelly was instrumental in bringing the World Rally Championship to Australia in 1988 and served as Chairman of the Organising Committee, Board member and Clerk of Course of Rally Australia until December 2002. He has been an FIA Steward and FIA Observer since 1989, covering the FIA's World Rally Championship, World Touring Car Championship and Formula One Championship. He is chairman of the Australian Institute of Motor Sport Safety and director of the Global Institute for Motor Sport Safety and the Australian Road Safety Foundation. He is a member of the FIA World Motor Sport Council.



DENNIS DEAN

**FIA WORLD MOTOR SPORT COUNCIL MEMBER; MEMBER,
INTERNATIONAL SPORTING CODE REVIEW COMMISSION; F2,
FORMULA E STEWARD**

Dennis Dean has been involved in motor sport since becoming a scrutineer with the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) in the late 1970s. He has served at national level as a scrutineer, steward, and race director, including 10 years as either assistant chief steward or chief steward (race director) of the SCCA's National Championship Runoffs. He has scrutineered at 10 US Formula One races, in Las Vegas, Indianapolis and Austin. He was also vice president of Club Racing and Rally/Solo for SCCA. He currently serves as a member of both the FIA's International Sporting Code Review Commission..



EMANUELE PIRRO

**FORMER FORMULA ONE DRIVER AND FIVE-TIMES LE MANS
WINNER. MEMBER OF THE FIA DRIVERS' COMMISSION**

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.



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							281
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						241
3	K. RÄIKKÖNEN	15 ₃	NC	15 ₃	18 ₂	NC	12 ₄	8 ₆	15 ₃	18 ₂	15 ₃	15 ₃	15 ₃	NC	18 ₂	10 ₅						174
4	V. BOTTAS	4 ₈	18 ₂	18 ₂	14 ₁₄	18 ₂	10 ₅	18 ₂	6 ₇	NC	12 ₄	18 ₂	10 ₅	12 ₄	15 ₃	12 ₄						171
5	M. VERSTAPPEN	8 ₆	NC	10 ₅	NC	15 ₃	2 ₉	15 ₃	18 ₂	25 ₁	NC	12 ₄	NC	15 ₃	10 ₅	18 ₂						148
6	D. RICCIARDO	12 ₄	NC	25 ₁	NC	10 ₅	25 ₁	12 ₄	12 ₄	NC	10 ₅	NC	12 ₄	NC	NC	8 ₆						126
7	N. HÜLKENBERG	6 ₇	8 ₆	8 ₆	NC	NC	4 ₈	6 ₇	2 ₉	NC	8 ₆	10 ₅	12 ₄	NC	13 ₁₀	1 ₁₀						53
8	F. ALONSO	10 ₅	6 ₇	6 ₇	6 ₇	4 ₈	NC	NC	4 ₈	4 ₈	NC	16 ₈	8 ₈	NC	NC	6 ₇						50
9	K. MAGNUSSEN	NC	10 ₅	1 ₁₀	8 ₁₃	8 ₆	13 ₁₃	8 ₆	10 ₅	2 ₉	11 ₁₁	6 ₇	4 ₈	8 ₁₆	16 ₁₈							49
10	S. PÉREZ	11 ₁₆	12 ₁₂	15 ₃	2 ₉	12 ₁₄	NC	6 ₇	1 ₁₀	6 ₇	10 ₁₄	5 ₅	7 ₇	16 ₁₆								46
11	E. OCON	12 ₁₀	1 ₁₁	NC	NC	8 ₆	2 ₉	NC	8 ₆	6 ₇	4 ₈	13 ₁₃	6 ₆	6 ₆	NC							45
12	C. SAINZ	1 ₁₀	2 ₁₁	10 ₉	6 ₅	1 ₇	4 ₁₀	4 ₈	12 ₁₂	NC	12 ₁₂	9 ₉	11 ₁₁	8 ₈	4 ₈							38
13	P. GASLY	NC	12 ₄	18 ₁₈	12 ₁₂	NC	6 ₇	11 ₁₁	NC	11 ₁₃	14 ₁₄	8 ₆	2 ₉	14 ₁₄	13 ₁₃							28
14	R. GROSJEAN	NC	13 ₁₃	17 ₁₇	NC	NC	15 ₁₅	12 ₁₁	11 ₁₁	4 ₁₁	NC	8 ₆	1 ₁₀	6 ₇	DQ	15 ₁₅						27
15	C. LECLERC	13 ₁₃	12 ₁₂	19 ₁₉	8 ₆	1 ₁₀	18 ₁₈	10 ₁₀	10 ₁₀	9 ₉	NC	15 ₁₅	NC	NC	11 ₁₁	2 ₉						15
16	S. VANDOORNE	2 ₉	4 ₈	13 ₁₃	2 ₉	NC	14 ₁₄	16 ₁₆	12 ₁₂	15 ₁₅	11 ₁₁	13 ₁₃	NC	15 ₁₅	12 ₁₂	12 ₁₂						8
17	L. STROLL	14 ₁₄	14 ₁₄	14 ₁₄	4 ₈	11 ₁₁	17 ₁₇	NC	17 ₁₇	14 ₁₄	12 ₁₂	NC	17 ₁₇	13 ₁₃	9 ₁₄	2 ₉						6
18	M. ERICSSON	NC	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						6
19	B. HARTLEY	15 ₁₅	17 ₁₇	20 ₂₀	1 ₁₀	12 ₁₂	19 ₁₉	NC	14 ₁₄	NC	NC	10 ₁₁	11 ₁₄	NC	17 ₁₇							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 ₁₂	1 ₁₀	19 ₁₉						1

FORMULA ONE TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Press conference 1500

FRIDAY

Practice session 1 1100-1230

Press conference 1300

Practice session 2 1500-1630

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 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 the paddock, in front of the FIA garages.

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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