



Race Preview

2019 BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX

29 – 31 March 2019

The Bahrain International Circuit this weekend hosts Round Two of the 2019 FIA Formula One World Championship, with teams and drivers arriving in the island kingdom to tackle the first night race of the season.

After the close confines of the season-opening race at the Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit, the track at Sakhir presents a very different set of challenges, not only because of the evening start under floodlights.

High temperatures and dust from the desert landscape make the weekend tough on engines, and the problem of airborne sand can be exacerbated if the wind gets up across a circuit that features a relatively gentle elevation change of just 16.9m.

The start-stop nature of the track also makes the race tough on both brakes and tyres. The circuit is ranked as one of the season's toughest on brakes, with Turns 1, 4 and 14 being particularly severe. Tyres, meanwhile, are stressed not just by the high loads under braking but also by the highly abrasive surface. To deal with the demands, Pirelli is this weekend bringing the hardest compounds in its 2019 range. The C1 compound will feature as the white hard tyre, while the C2 and C3 compounds will be on offer as the yellow medium and red soft options.

The nighttime nature of the race brings its own challenges. FP2 is the only practice session held in conditions similar to the race, limiting the window in which teams can gather meaningful set-up data, and during the race the steadily falling track temperature can cause handling headaches.

Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas heads into this weekend in charge of the Drivers' standings after an emphatic win saw him take maximum points (including the point on offer for fastest lap) in Melbourne. The Finn will be looking to build on that good start in Bahrain, a circuit at which he has previously scored two podium finishes. There were, however, difficulties in Australia for Bottas' team-mate Lewis Hamilton and for close rivals Ferrari, and a strong comeback can be expected from the defending champion and from the Italian squad.



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 changes of significance have been made.

DRS ZONE

- ▶ The Bahrain International Circuit will feature three DRS Zones. The first features a detection point 50m before Turn 1, with activation 23m after Turn 3. The second zone now has a detection point 10m before Turn 9 and activation 50m after Turn 10, and the third zone has a detection point 108m after Turn 14, with activation 170m after Turn 15.

RACE OFFICIALS UPDATE

- ▶ The following FIA personnel will officiate at the 2019 Bahrain Grand Prix.

F1 Race Director & Safety

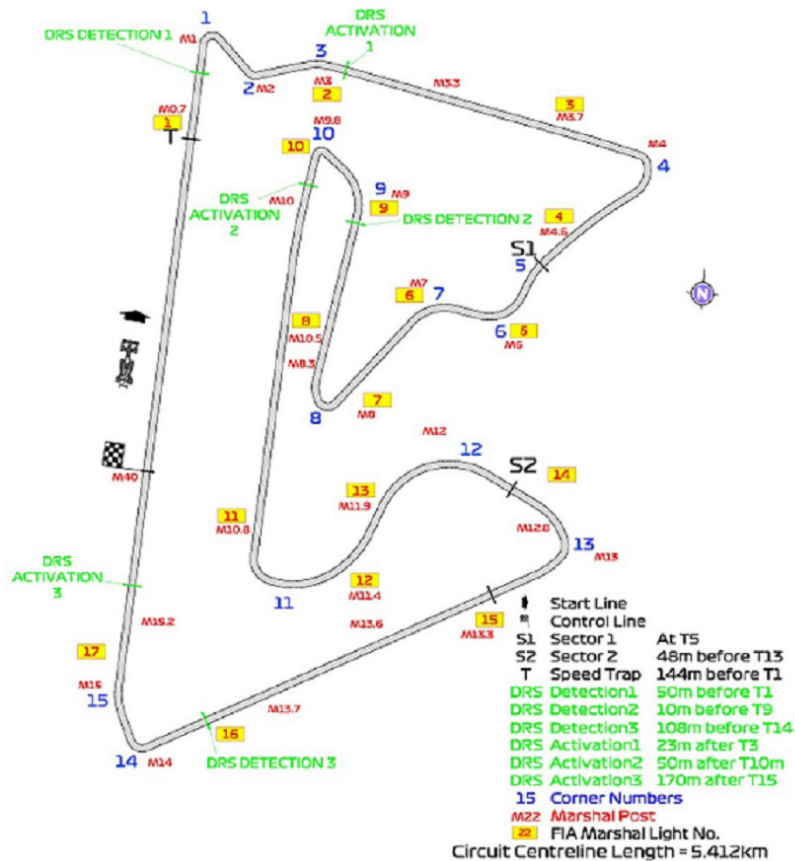
Delegate: Michael Masi.

Deputy F1 Race Director: Colin Haywood.

Permanent Starter: Christian Bryll.

FORMULA 1 GULFAIR BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX 2019 - Sakhir

Circuit Map



FAST FACTS

- ▶ This will be the 15th Bahrain Grand Prix. The first event took place in 2004 and it has been held every year since except 2011.
- ▶ Sebastian Vettel has more wins in Bahrain than any other driver. The German driver twice won this race with Red Bull Racing, in 2012 and 2013, and also won the two most recent grands prix here, with Ferrari. Next on the list is Fernando Alonso who won with Renault in 2005 and 2006 and with Ferrari in 2010.
- ▶ Ferrari have the most wins of any constructor at this circuit. Alongside Vettel and Alonso's wins, the Scuderia won with Michael Schumacher in 2004, and then took two victories with Felipe Massa (2007/'08). Their total of six is double that of closest rivals Mercedes.
- ▶ Kimi Räikkönen has more visits to the podium here than any other driver, though he has never won this race. The Finn has finished in top three on eight occasions. He has finished in P3 three times – in 2005 and 2006 with McLaren, and in 2007 with Ferrari – and has five second places to his name, with Ferrari in 2008, Lotus in 2012 and 2013, and then again with Ferrari in 2015 and 2016. Kimi is still far away from holding the record for most podiums at a grand prix, however. That honour goes to Michael Schumacher who finished in top three at both the San Marino Grand Prix and the Spanish Grand Prix a whopping 12 times.
- ▶ Mercedes have more poles than any constructor, with five. Nico Rosberg started from P1 in 2013 and 2014 before Hamilton and Bottas got in on the act during a five-season streak for the for the Silver Arrows. Ferrari are next on the list with four.
- ▶ Haas F1 driver Romain Grosjean scored the first podium finish of his career in Bahrain. Racing for Lotus in 2012 he took third place behind team-mate Räikkönen and race winner Sebastian Vettel. Since then the French driver has amassed a further nine podiums, including a second visit to the Bahrain rostrum in 2013. His most recent podium finish was for third place at the 2015 Belgian Grand Prix. All were scored with Lotus.
- ▶ This weekend Robert Kubica returns to race at the Bahrain Grand Prix for the first time since 2010. This circuit is where, in 2008, the Pole scored his first and sole pole position to date, when driving for BMW Sauber.
- ▶ Kubica isn't the only current driver to have scored his first pole position in Bahrain. Valtteri Bottas took his first pole here in 2017 with Mercedes.
- ▶ All three of this season's rookies have raced at this circuit before. Toro Rosso's Alex Albon competed here in FIA Formula 2 in 2017 and 2018, getting a best result of fourth in last year's feature race. McLaren's Lando Norris won that feature race in his sole campaign in F2, while Williams' George Russell finished in P5 in that same race on his way to the 2018 F2 title.
- ▶ Two other drivers from the current grid have started from pole position here. Vettel has the most starts from the front of the grid with three (2010 and 2012 with Red Bull and 2018 with Ferrari), while Lewis Hamilton has two Bahrain poles, in 2015 and 2016. Both came at the wheel of Mercedes cars.

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 a director of the Australian Institute of Motor Sport Safety and of the Global Institute of Motor Sport Safety. He is a member of the FIA World Motor Sport Council.



JOSÉ ABED

FIA VICE PRESIDENT FOR SPORT

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.



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.



2019 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	MEXICO	USA	BRAZIL	ABU DHABI	POINTS	
1	V. BOTTAS	26 F 1																						26
2	L. HAMILTON	18 2																						18
3	M. VERSTAPPEN	15 3																						15
4	S. VETTEL	12 4																						12
5	C. LECLERC	10 5																						10
6	K. MAGNUSSEN	8 6																						8
7	N. HÜLKENBERG	6 7																						6
8	K. RÄIKÖNEN	4 8																						4
9	L. STROLL	2 9																						2
10	D. KVYAT	1 10																						1
11	P. GASLY	11																						0
12	L. NORRIS	12																						0
13	S. PÉREZ	13																						0
14	A. ALBON	14																						0
15	A. GIOVINAZZI	15																						0
16	G. RUSSELL	16																						0
17	R. KUBICA	17																						0
18	R. GROSJEAN	NC																						0
19	D. RICCIARDO	NC																						0
20	C. SAINZ	NC																						0

F = POINT FOR FASTEST LAP

FORMULA ONE TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Press conference 1800

FRIDAY

Practice session 1 1400-1530

Press conference 1600

Practice session 2 1800-1930

SATURDAY

Practice session 3 1500-1600

Qualifying 1800-1900

Followed by track interviews, press conference

SUNDAY

Drivers' Parade 1630

Race 1810

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 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 the paddock, behind the FIA garage.

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.

FIA COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

press@fia.com

T +33 1 43 12 58 15

