



# Race Preview

## 2019 RUSSIAN GRAND PRIX

27 – 29 September 2019

Just a few days after a fascinating Singapore Grand Prix, F1's teams and driver heads west for Round 16 of the 2019 FIA Formula One World Championship at the Sochi Autodrom, home of the Russian Grand Prix.

And after the relatively narrow confines and close barriers of the Marina Bay Street Circuit, a different kind of street circuit awaits at the circuit that winds around the site of the 2014 Winter Olympics.

The Sochi Autodrom is defined by two long straights, the high-speed multi-apex horseshoe-shaped Turn 3 and by a large number of 90°, medium-speed corners. The variance means that set-up is compromise. The fast straights tempt teams to pursue reduced levels of downforce, but the slow and medium-speed corners mean balance, grip and good traction on exit are also prized. In short, it's not an easy circuit to get right.

Sochi has a reputation as a circuit with low tyre degradation. However, tyre supplier Pirelli has opted for the middle ground of its range this weekend, bringing the C2 compound as the hard tyre, C3 as its medium and C4 as the soft. The vast majority of drivers have selected nine or 10 sets of the soft tyre for their allocation, with only Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas opting for fewer, with eight soft sets each.

In Singapore, Mercedes missed out on a podium finish for only the second time this season, as Hamilton and Bottas finished fourth and fifth respectively. With Ferrari registering its first one-two finish of the season, the gap at the top has been cut by 21 points. However, the Silver Arrows still hold a sizeable 133-point advantage over the Maranello squad with six rounds remaining. Ferrari's strong result at Marina Bay means they extended their advantage over Red Bull Racing to 105 points.

Meanwhile, in the Driver's Championship standings, Hamilton's fourth place in Singapore extended his title lead. The Briton now has 296 points to his name, 65 clear of second-place Bottas and 96 ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Red Bull Racing's Max Verstappen, with Singapore winner Sebastian Vettel in fifth place.



### SOCHI AUTODROM

**Length of lap:**

5.848km

**Lap record:**

1:35.861 (Valtteri Bottas, Mercedes, 2018)

**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

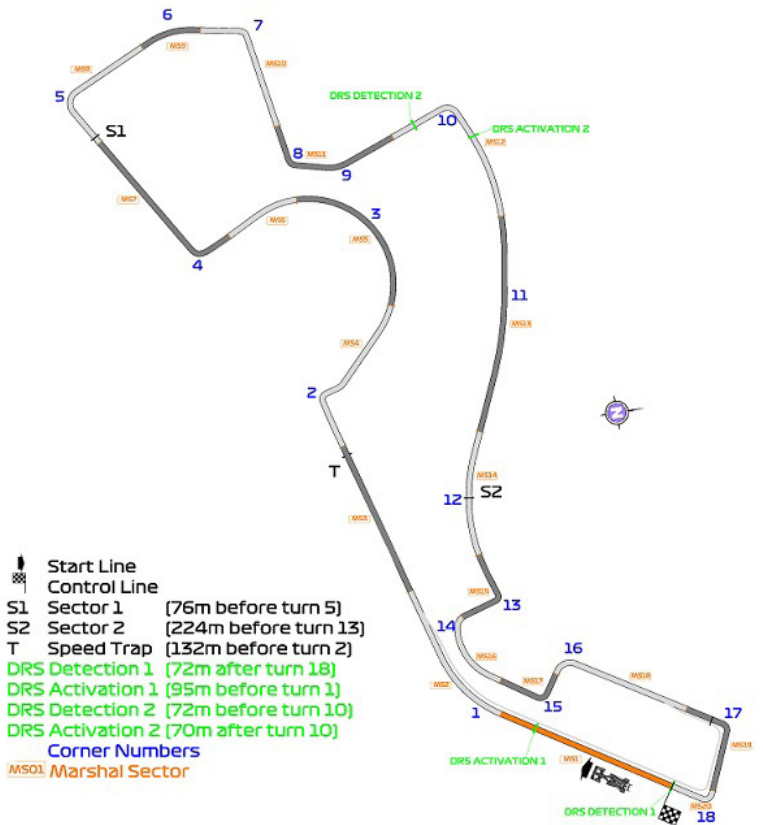
- ▶ The track has been resurfaced at the exit of Turn 2, from the entry to the exit of Turn 8, from the entry to Turn 15 through to Point 16.5 and in a small section in the middle of the fast lane.

### 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 Turn 10, with activation 70m after the corner.

## FORMULA 1 VTB RUSSIAN GRAND PRIX 2019- Sochi

### Media Map



Circuit Centreline Length = 5.848km

## FAST FACTS

- ▶ This is the sixth 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.
- ▶ Every one of the five races to date in Sochi has been won by Mercedes. Lewis Hamilton won the race in 2014, 2015 and last year, Nico Rosberg took victory in 2016 and Valtteri Bottas won in 2017.
- ▶ Mercedes have been almost as potent in qualifying as in the race, with the Silver Arrows taking four pole positions here. Hamilton started the inaugural event in 2014 from the front, Rosberg had back-to-back poles in 2015 and 2016 and Bottas scored the sixth of his 10 pole positions to date in Sochi last year. The only man to so far deny Mercedes pole position at the Russian Grand Prix is Sebastian Vettel. The German was on pole in 2017 for Ferrari.
- ▶ Bottas' 2017 victory in Russia was the Finn's first win in Formula 1. Starting from third on the grid Bottas finished ahead of the Ferraris of polesitter Vettel and Kimi Räikkönen. Since then the Mercedes driver has scored four more wins (in Austria and Abu Dhabi in 2017, and in Australia and Azerbaijan this year). Bottas also scored the first fastest lap of his career in the 2014 race at Sochi when he was driving for Williams.
- ▶ Of the 15 podium places of offer in Sochi to date, 13 have been won by drivers from Mercedes and Ferrari. Just two have been taken by drivers from outside the top two teams: in 2014 when Bottas finished third with Williams and in 2015 when Sergio Pérez finished third for Force India.
- ▶ Lewis Hamilton has led more than double the number of laps of any other driver on the current grid in Sochi. The Briton has headed the field for 114 of the 264 laps raced so far. His closest rival currently is Bottas who has led 55 laps here. Next on the list is Max Verstappen who has led 24 laps.
- ▶ There has been a Russian driver on the grid at Sochi in each of the five editions of the race. Daniil Kvyat raced here with Toro Rosso in 2014 and 2017 and with Red Bull Racing in 2015 and 2016, while last year, when Kvyat was fulfilling a development driver role at Ferrari, Russia was represented by Sergey Sirotkin who started in P13 and finished in P18. Sirotkin also featured in three FP1 sessions in Sochi – with Sauber in 2014 and with Renault in 2016 and 2017, though his 2017 was brief due to car issues. Kvyat returns to his home race this year with Toro Rosso.
- ▶ Kvyat's best result here is fifth, scored with Red Bull Racing in 2015. In his three other outings on home soil he has finished outside the points. Sunday's race is set to be his 88th in F1.
- ▶ On the current grid, three drivers have scored points in every Russian Grand Prix: Hamilton, Räikkönen and Pérez.
- ▶ Should Räikkönen take Sunday's start he will become Formula 1's third most frequent starter with 307 to his name. The tally moves him ahead of Michael Schumacher and Jenson Button. Only Fernando Alonso (311) and Rubens Barrichello (322) will have more than the Finn. He should bypass Alonso's total at this year's final round in Abu Dhabi.

# RACE STEWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

## DR GERD ENNSER

### **MEMBER OF THE DMSB'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR AUTOMOBILE SPORT, FORMULA ONE AND DTM STEWARD**

Dr Gerd Ennsen has successfully combined his formal education in law with his passion for motor racing. While still active as a racing driver he began helping out with the management of his local motor sport club and since 2006 has been a permanent steward at every round of Germany's DTM championship. Since 2010 he has also been a Formula One steward. Dr Ennsen, who has worked as a judge, a prosecutor and in the legal department of an automotive-industry company, has also acted as a member of the steering committee of German motor sport body, the DMSB, since spring 2010, where he is responsible for automobile sport. In addition, Dr Ennsen is a board member of the South Bavaria Section of ADAC, Germany's biggest auto club.



## ANDREW MALLALIEU

### **PRESIDENT OF THE BARBADOS MOTORING FEDERATION; FORMULA 1, WRC AND F3 STEWARD**

Andrew Mallalieu's 30-year plus involvement in motor sport spans rallying, hill climbs and circuit racing in Barbados and the greater Caribbean region. He is currently President of the Barbados Motoring Federation. Andrew has served as a steward at a wide variety of events including rounds of the FIA World Rally Championship and the FIA European F3 Championship. A Certified Public Accountant and a Chartered Surveyor his non-motorsport activities include ownership of the Terra Caribbean Group where he is the Chief Executive. He has also been an advisor to the Barbados Government on real estate development issues.



## 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.



### **NATIONAL STEWARD**

## GEORGE ANDREEV

### **FIA STEWARD AND MEMBER OF THE FIA GT COMMISSION**

George Andreev's motorsport career stretches back more than a decade, to his university days at the Moscow Automobile And Road Construction State Technical University. Following his studies, he worked in a number of team, promotional and management roles in a variety of championships and disciplines, including the FIA World Rally Championship, Formula 3 Light in Russia, Formula Russia and in the FIA GT3 and in the SEA Formula 4 Certified by FIA championships. As a steward, Andreev has officiated at events in the Blancpain GT Series, at the 24H of Spa and has been Clerk of the Course role at the Formula 1 Russian GP since 2014. He was appointed as a member of the FIA GT Commission this year and from 2007-2014 was a member of the Motorcycle Federation of Russia's Circuit Racing Commission.



# 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	L. HAMILTON	18 <sub>2</sub>	25 <sub>1</sub>	25 <sub>1</sub>	18 <sub>2</sub>	26 <sub>F 1</sub>	25 <sub>1</sub>	25 <sub>1</sub>	10 <sub>5</sub>	26 <sub>F 1</sub>	2	25 <sub>1</sub>	18 <sub>2</sub>	16 <sub>F 3</sub>	12 <sub>4</sub>							296
2	V. BOTTAS	26 <sub>F 1</sub>	18 <sub>2</sub>	18 <sub>2</sub>	25 <sub>1</sub>	18 <sub>2</sub>	15 <sub>3</sub>	13 <sub>F 4</sub>	18 <sub>2</sub>	15 <sub>3</sub>	18	4	15 <sub>3</sub>	18 <sub>2</sub>	10 <sub>5</sub>							231
3	C. LECLERC	10 <sub>5</sub>	16 <sub>F 3</sub>	10 <sub>5</sub>	11 <sub>F 5</sub>	10 <sub>5</sub>	NC	15 <sub>3</sub>	15 <sub>3</sub>	18 <sub>2</sub>	15 <sub>3</sub>	12 <sub>4</sub>	25 <sub>1</sub>	25 <sub>1</sub>	18 <sub>2</sub>							200
4	M. VERSTAPPEN	15 <sub>3</sub>	12 <sub>4</sub>	12 <sub>4</sub>	12 <sub>4</sub>	15 <sub>3</sub>	12 <sub>4</sub>	10 <sub>5</sub>	12 <sub>4</sub>	25 <sub>F 1</sub>	10 <sub>5</sub>	26 <sub>F 1</sub>	19 <sub>F 2</sub>	4	15 <sub>8</sub>							200
5	S. VETTEL	12 <sub>4</sub>	10 <sub>5</sub>	15 <sub>3</sub>	15 <sub>3</sub>	12 <sub>4</sub>	18 <sub>2</sub>	18 <sub>2</sub>	11 <sub>F 5</sub>	12 <sub>4</sub>	18	15 <sub>3</sub>	13 <sub>F 4</sub>	25 <sub>13</sub>	25 <sub>1</sub>							194
6	P. GASLY	11	4 <sub>8</sub>	9 <sub>F 6</sub>	NC	8 <sub>6</sub>	11 <sub>F 5</sub>	4 <sub>8</sub>	1 <sub>10</sub>	6 <sub>7</sub>	12 <sub>4</sub>	8	2 <sub>9</sub>	4	4							69
7	C. SAINZ	NC	19	14	6 <sub>7</sub>	4 <sub>8</sub>	8 <sub>6</sub>	8 <sub>11</sub>	8 <sub>6</sub>	4 <sub>8</sub>	8 <sub>6</sub>	10 <sub>5</sub>	10 <sub>5</sub>	NC	NC	12						58
8	A. ALBON	14	2 <sub>9</sub>	1 <sub>10</sub>	11	4	8	NC	15	15	12	8	1 <sub>10</sub>	10 <sub>5</sub>	8 <sub>6</sub>	8						42
9	D. RICCIARDO	NC	18	6 <sub>7</sub>	NC	2 <sub>12</sub>	8 <sub>9</sub>	8 <sub>6</sub>	11	12	6	NC	14	14	12 <sub>4</sub>	14						34
10	D. KVYAT	1 <sub>10</sub>	12	NC	NC	2 <sub>9</sub>	6 <sub>7</sub>	1 <sub>10</sub>	14	17	2 <sub>9</sub>	15 <sub>3</sub>	6 <sub>7</sub>	NC	15							33
11	N. HÜLKENBERG	6 <sub>7</sub>	17	NC	14	13	13	6 <sub>7</sub>	4 <sub>8</sub>	13	1	NC	12	4 <sub>8</sub>	10 <sub>5</sub>	2 <sub>9</sub>						33
12	L. NORRIS	12	8 <sub>6</sub>	18	8	NC	11	NC	9	6	11	NC	9	11	10	6						31
13	K. RÄIKKÖNEN	4 <sub>8</sub>	6 <sub>7</sub>	2 <sub>9</sub>	1 <sub>10</sub>	14	17	15	6 <sub>7</sub>	2 <sub>9</sub>	4 <sub>8</sub>	12	6	16	15	NC						31
14	S. PÉREZ	13	1 <sub>10</sub>	4 <sub>8</sub>	8 <sub>6</sub>	15	12	12	12	11	17	NC	11	8 <sub>6</sub>	6 <sub>7</sub>	NC						27
15	L. STROLL	2 <sub>9</sub>	14	12	2 <sub>9</sub>	NC	16	9	13	14	13	4	17	10	12	13						19
16	K. MAGNUSSEN	8 <sub>6</sub>	13	13	13	6 <sub>7</sub>	14	17	17	19	NC	4	8	13	12	NC	17					18
17	R. GROSJEAN	NC	NC	11	NC	1	1	14	NC	16	NC	6	7	NC	13	16	11					8
18	A. GIOVINAZZI	15	11	15	12	16	19	13	16	10	NC	13	18	18	2 <sub>9</sub>	1 <sub>10</sub>						4
19	R. KUBICA	17	16	17	16	18	18	18	18	20	15	1	10	19	17	17	16					1
20	G. RUSSELL	16	15	16	15	17	15	16	19	18	14	11	16	15	14	NC						0

F = POINT FOR FASTEST LAP



# 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 and parc fermé interviews

## 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 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, 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.

Following the end of the race, drivers who do not have sessions for print media organised by their team will be available for interview in the Mixed Zone immediately after they have completed their TV interview obligations. A list of these drivers will be distributed to all media at the event during the race.

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