



Race Preview

2020 AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX

03 – 05 July 2020

After a delay of almost 16 weeks, the 2020 FIA Formula One World Championship at last kicks off this weekend with the Austrian Grand Prix at the Red Bull Ring.

The return to racing takes Formula 1's teams into the green heart of Austria in the mountains of Styria, and to a venue that, despite being one of the sport's shorter circuits, packs quite a punch.

The Red Bull Ring's compact configuration, made up of just 10 corners and a sequence of short, fast straights, make it one of the quickest laps in the sport, with race lap times regularly below 68 seconds and with more than 70% of the lap spent at full throttle.

However, the circuit's altitude, at 660m above sea level, puts power units under more stress than at many venues and effective cooling of engines is often a headache for teams at this circuit.

It's a similar tale with brakes. While braking events are few at Spielberg, there are three in particular, at Turns 1, 3 and 4, that arrive in quick succession and that can lead to troublesome overheating.

Formula 1's teams will take to the Austrian track more than four months after the end of pre-season testing in Barcelona, where a pecking order among F1's 2020 challengers began to appear.

Then, six-time Constructors' Champions Mercedes remained the benchmark, though Red Bull Racing looked to have gained ground on the Silver Arrows. Ferrari, meanwhile, had an inconclusive test phase and left Barcelona with more questions to ask than were answered during testing.

However, the world has changed immeasurably since and teams have been through the longest shutdown in the sport's history. Work resumed on this season's cars at the beginning of June and here in Austria a very different pecking order could emerge as what may turn out to be the most unpredictable FIA Formula One World Championship in recent memory finally gets underway.



RED BULL RING

Length of lap: 4.318km

Lap record: 1:06.957

(Kimi Räikkönen, Ferrari, 2018)

Start line/finish line offset:

0.126km

Total number of race laps: 71

Total race distance: 306.452km

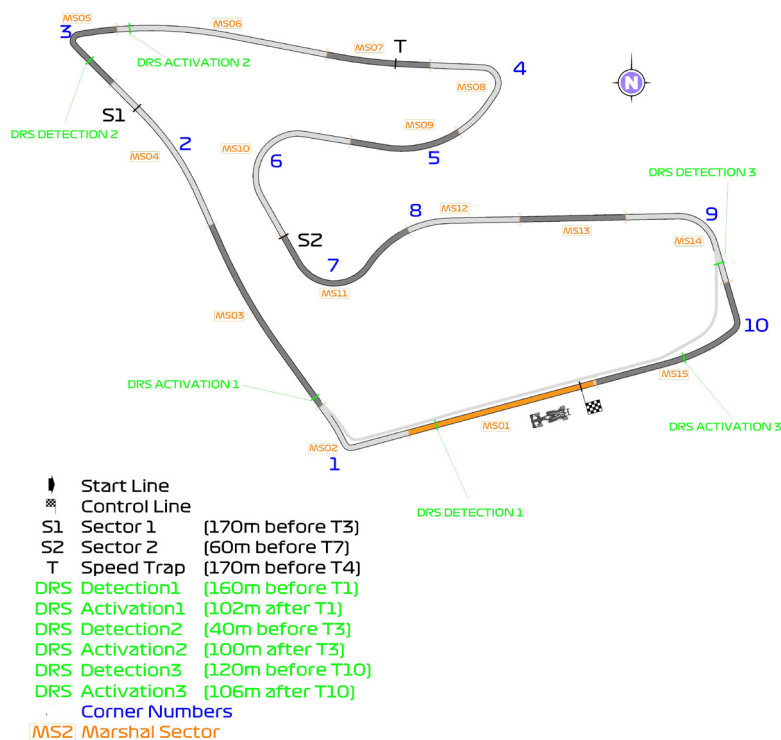
Pitlane speed limit: 80km/h

CIRCUIT NOTES

- ▶ An extension has been added to the concrete behind the Turn 8 apex kerb and to the exit kerb.
- ▶ The additional yellow kerbs behind the exit kerbs at Turn 9 and Turn 10 have been removed and timing loops have been installed.

DRS ZONE

- ▶ There will be three DRS zones. The first has a detection point 160m before Turn 1 with an activation point 102m after Turn 1. The second zone has a detection point 40m before Turn 3 and an activation point 100m after Turn 3. The detection point of the final zone is 120m before Turn 10, while its activation point is 106m after Turn 10.



Circuit Centreline Length = 4.318km

FAST FACTS

- ▶ This will be the 33rd World Championship Austrian Grand Prix. The first was held in 1964 on a circuit at the Zeltweg Air Base. Constructed close by, the Österreichring made its calendar debut 50 years ago in 1970 and hosted the race until 1987. A shortened version of the circuit, named the A1-Ring, was used between 1997 and 2003, and now called the Red Bull Ring, the track has hosted the race since 2014.
- ▶ This will be the first time a Formula 1 season has started in Austria. It is also the latest start to a season in the history of the championship, beating the previous record holder, the 1951 season, by 37 days. That year, the first race of the season took place on May 27, in Monaco.
- ▶ Alain Prost is the most successful driver at the Austrian Grand Prix with victories for Renault in 1983 and then McLaren in 1985 and 1986. Red Bull Racing's Max Verstappen can this weekend match Prost's record and become the first driver to take three consecutive wins in Austria.
- ▶ McLaren are the most successful constructor at the Austrian Grand Prix with six wins. Niki Lauda won for the British squad in 1984, while Prost's double was followed by victory for Mika Häkkinen in 1998 and 2000. David Coulthard took the team's most recent Austrian GP win 19 years ago.
- ▶ Coulthard also holds the distinction of most podium finishes in Austria, with five. Aside from his 2001 win, he recorded four consecutive second places between 1997 and 2000.
- ▶ Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc last year became the first non Mercedes-powered driver to take pole position at the Red Bull Ring. In 2014, pole went to Felipe Massa, then driving for Mercedes customer squad Williams, while in 2015 and 2016 Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton lined up in P1 and in 2017 and 2018 team-mate Valtteri Bottas started from the front of the grid.
- ▶ In six races at the Red Bull Ring the man on pole has won just twice, with Hamilton winning from P1 in 2016 and Bottas in 2017. Since 2014, the race been won from beyond the front row just twice – in 2014 when Rosberg won from P3 and in 2018 when Verstappen started from fourth on the grid.
- ▶ Williams' Nicholas Latifi is set to make his F1 race debut this Sunday. He has, however, driven on 12 grand prix weekends ahead of this event. He drove for Force India in five Friday practice sessions in 2018 and last year appeared six times with Williams, most recently at the 2019 Brazilian GP. He has not experienced the Red Bull Ring in an F1 car before, but he has raced here in both GP2 and F2. His best result is P2 in the feature race in 2017.
- ▶ This will be Esteban Ocon's first grand prix since the 2018 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix when his two seasons with Force India/Racing Point came to an end. After a year as Mercedes' reserve driver, Ocon returns to racing with Renault. The French driver finished both of his previous Austrian GP outings in the points, taking P8 in 2017 and P6 in 2018. Sunday will mark Ocon's 51st grand prix start.
- ▶ The Scuderia AlphaTauri name makes its grand prix debut this weekend. The team raced 268 times as Scuderia Toro Rosso, taking one win, three podium finishes and 500 points, but owners Red Bull have given the team a makeover for 2020.

RACE STEWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

DR GERD ENNSER

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

Dr Gerd Ennsler 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 Ennsler, 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 Ennsler is a board member of the South Bavaria Section of ADAC, Germany's biggest auto club.



FELIX HOLTER

MEMBER FIA INTERNATIONAL STEWARDS PANEL, PERMANENT CHAIRMAN OF STEWARDS, DTM

Involved in motorsport in his native Germany from a young age, Felix Holter followed a junior national-level karting career by moving into event organisation as a board member of his local motorsport club. He began his stewarding at national level in 2007 and by 2011 was acting as Chairman of the Stewards of the ADAC GT Masters Series, as well as stewarding at the German round of the FIA World Touring Car Championship, DTM, the F3 Euro Series and the FIA F3 Trophy. In 2013 became permanent Chairman of the Stewards in DTM, while at the same time continuing to work in the GT Masters, German F4 and ADAC TCR Germany series. From 2014-20-18 he fulfilled the role of national steward at the Formula One German Grand Prix. In 2018 he became a member of the FIA International Stewards Panel. Holter also organises training activities for International Stewards on behalf of the German ASN, the DMSB.



VITANTONIO LIUZZI

FORMER FIA FORMULA ONE DRIVER, FORMER FIA WORLD ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP, FIA FORMULA E, SUPER GT, SUPER FORMULA DRIVER, FIA FORMULA E STEWARD

Italy's Vitantonio Liuzzi started 80 FIA Formula One World Championship Grands Prix. After junior series success, including winning the 2004 International F3000 title, the Apulia native made his F1 debut with Red Bull Racing at the 2005 San Marino Grand Prix. Following a shared drive in his maiden season, Liuzzi took up a full-time drive with sister team Scuderia Toro Rosso in 2006. He later moved to Force India, where he enjoyed the most consistent points-scoring spell of his F1 career. In 2011 he moved to the ill-fated HRT team and raced for final time in F1 at that season's Brazilian Grand Prix. Following his grand prix career, Liuzzi was a regular competitor in the FIA World Endurance Championship in 2012, 2013 and 2015, in Japan's Super GT and Super Formula in 2014, and in FIA Formula E during the 2014-15 and 2015-2016 seasons. He has also acted as a steward in the FIA Formula E Championship.



NATIONAL STEWARD

WALTER JOBST

AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX NATIONAL STEWARD, NATIONAL CIRCUIT RACING COMMISSION MEMBER, AND MEMBER OF THE FIA TRUCK RACING COMMISSION

Walter Jobst has been active in motorsport since 1973. In the '70s and '80s he was involved in rally and circuit racing and worked as an organiser of a variety of motorsport events. In 1979 he passed his exams before Austria's ASN to become the youngest steward at that time. He has been a member of the national sporting body since 1985 and since 1993 has acted as chairman of the Commission for Circuit Racing and Drift. He is a member of the National Court of Appeal and the Circuit Racing Committee. Since 1996 he has served as National Steward for all F1 races in Austria. He has also been active in FIA Formula 2, Formula 3 and numerous other series. He has also been a member of the FIA Truck Racing Commission since 2012.



2020 FIA Formula One World Championship*

DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

	AUSTRIA	STEIERMARK	HUNGARY	GREAT BRITAIN	70 TH ANNIV.	SPAIN	BELGIUM	ITALY												POINTS
1	L. HAMILTON																			
2	V. BOTTAS																			
3	M. VERSTAPPEN																			
4	C. LECLERC																			
5	S. VETTEL																			
6	C. SAINZ																			
7	P. GASLY																			
8	A. ALBON																			
9	D. RICCIARDO																			
10	S. PÉREZ																			
11	L. NORRIS																			
12	K. RÄIKÖNEN																			
13	D. KVYAT																			
14	L. STROLL																			
15	K. MAGNUSSEN																			
16	A. GIOVINAZZI																			
17	R. GROSJEAN																			
18	G. RUSSELL																			
19	N. LATIFI																			
20	E. OCON																			

* AS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED

F = POINT FOR FASTEST LAP

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CONSTRUCTORS' CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

	AUSTRIA	STEIERMARK	HUNGARY	GREAT BRITAIN	70 TH ANNIV.	SPAIN	BELGIUM	ITALY												POINTS
1	MERCEDES AMG PETRONAS F1 TEAM																			
2	SCUDERIA FERRARI MISSION WINNOW																			
3	ASTON MARTIN RED BULL RACING																			
4	McLAREN F1 TEAM																			
5	RENAULT F1 TEAM																			
6	SCUDERIA ALPHATAURI HONDA																			
7	SPORTPESA RACING POINT F1TEAM																			
8	ALFA ROMEO RACING																			
9	HAAS F1 TEAM																			
10	WILLIAMS RACING																			

* AS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED

FORMULA ONE TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Press conference 1400-1735

FRIDAY

Practice session 1 1100-1230

Press conference 1300

Practice session 2 1500-1630

SATURDAY

Practice session 3 1200-1300

Qualifying 1500-1600

SUNDAY

Race 1510

FIA COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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