



Race Preview

2020 RUSSIAN GRAND PRIX

25 – 27 September

After a sequence of nine races in 11 weeks across three triple-headers, Round 10 of the 2020 FIA Formula One World Championship sees teams and drivers travel east for the season's first standalone event – the Russian Grand Prix at Sochi Autodrom.

The 5.8km circuit within the complex constructed for the 2014 Winter Olympics is characterised by two long straights, the long, high-speed arc of Turn 3 and by a proliferation of 90°, medium-speed corners. Set-up at the track on the Black Sea coast is therefore something of a balancing act, as though the long straights would suggest reducing downforce levels in pursuit of outright pace, that would compromise balance, grip and traction on exit in the slower speed corners.

In keeping with Sochi's reputation as a circuit with low tyre degradation Pirelli has opted for the softer end of its tyre range for this weekend's event. The Italian manufacturer brings its C3 compound as the white-banded hard compound, the C4 as the yellow medium and the C5 as the red-banded soft tyre. It is the first time this season that the combination has been offered and a step softer than at last year's Russian Grand Prix.

A sixth win in nine races for Lewis Hamilton last time out at Mugello means the Briton carries a commanding 55-point Drivers' Championship lead into this weekend. Hamilton now has 190 points, with Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas second on 135. However, two DNFs in a row for Red Bull Racing's Max Verstappen mean the Dutchman has somewhat lost touch with the top two and he remains on 110 points. McLaren's Lando Norris is fourth with 65 points, two ahead of Red Bull Racing's Alex Albon, who at the Tuscan Grand Prix became this season's ninth podium finisher.

In the Constructors' Championship battle, a third one-two finish of the season two weeks ago in Mugello saw Mercedes pull even further away at the top of the standings. The defending champions now have 325 points, 152 more than closest rivals Red Bull Racing. Behind the top two the contest is still tight, however. McLaren go into the Sochi weekend in third place, with 106 points, 14 ahead of Racing Point, with Renault just nine points further back.



SOCHI AUTODROM

Length of lap:

5.848km

Lap record:

1:35.761 (Lewis Hamilton, Mercedes, 2019)

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

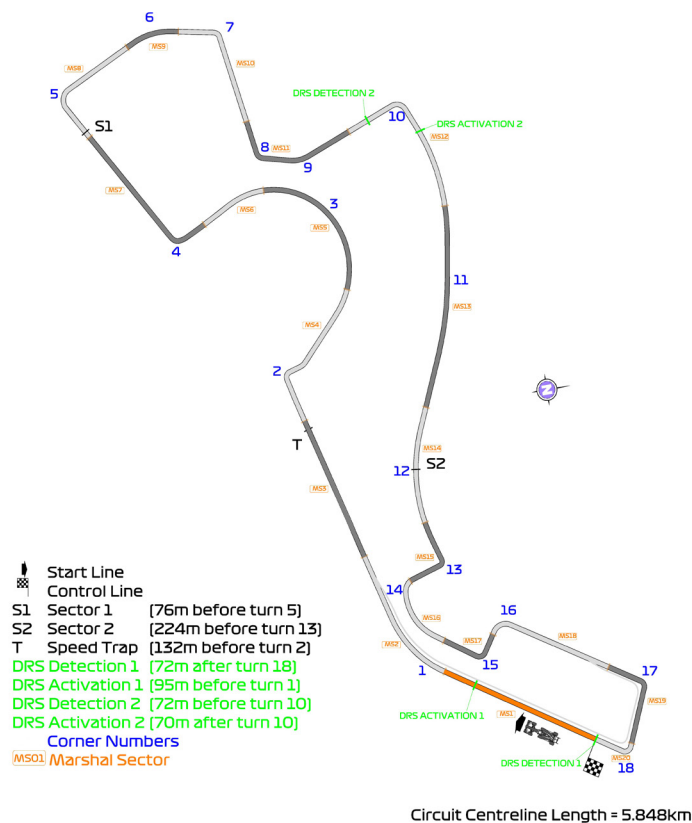
- ▶ There have been no changes of significance since 2019.

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 2020 - Sochi

Media Map



FAST FACTS

- ▶ This is the seventh FIA Formula One World Championship Russian Grand Prix. The race made its calendar debut in 2014 and each race has been held at the Sochi Autodrom.
- ▶ Mercedes have won every edition of the Russian Grand Prix to date. Lewis Hamilton has been victorious on four occasions (2014, 2015, 2018 and last year), while Nico Rosberg won in 2016 and Valtteri Bottas triumphed in 2017. Should the team win again this year it will establish a new record for most consecutive wins at the same grand prix.
- ▶ Bottas' 2017 victory was his first in Formula 1. The Finnish driver also scored the first of his 14 career fastest laps in Russia with Williams in 2014.
- ▶ Mercedes-powered cars have taken 12 of the 18 podium places awarded to date in Sochi. Aside from works team podiums (five for Hamilton, three for Bottas and two for Rosberg), Bottas finished third in a Williams-Mercedes in 2014 and Sergio Pérez finished third in a Force India-Mercedes in 2015. The only non-Mercedes powered cars to have finished in the top three in Russia are those of Ferrari. Sebastian Vettel finished second in 2015 and 2017 and third in 2018. Kimi Räikkönen was third in 2016 and 2017 and Charles Leclerc was third for the Scuderia last year.
- ▶ This weekend Hamilton has the chance to draw level with Michael Schumacher's all-time record of 91 F1 wins. Schumacher reached the total at his 246th grand prix, while Hamilton is set to take part in his 260th F1 race on Sunday. Seventy-two of Schumacher's victories were scored with Ferrari between 1996 and 2006 (the other 19 were achieved with Benetton in 1992-'95). Hamilton scored his first 21 wins with McLaren between 2007 and 2012 and the rest have been recorded with Mercedes.
- ▶ Kimi Räikkönen is this weekend set to make his 322nd Formula 1 start, drawing level with Rubens Barrichello, whose all-time record has stood since the 2011 Brazilian Grand Prix. Barrichello's final race came 18 years, 8 months and 13 days after making his debut at the 1993 South African Grand Prix. Should Räikkönen take the start on Sunday it will be 19 years, 6 months and 23 days since he made his F1 debut at the 2001 Australian Grand Prix, driving for Sauber. In the intervening years, the Finn, who has additionally driven for McLaren (2002-2006), Ferrari (2007-2009 and 2014-2018), Lotus (2012-2013) and Alfa Romeo (2019-), has scored 21 wins, 103 podium places, 18 pole positions, 1861 points, and one FIA Formula One World Drivers' Championship title, in 2007.
- ▶ A weekend of landmarks should also see Vettel start his 250th grand prix start. The German made his F1 debut in a sole outing with BMW-Sauber at the 2007 United States Grand Prix, deputising for the injured Robert Kubica. Vettel moved to Scuderia Toro Rosso for the 2007 Hungarian Grand Prix and took his and the team's first win at the 2008 Italian Grand Prix. He moved to Red Bull Racing for 2009, winning four consecutive F1 Drivers' titles with the team between 2010 and 2013. He moved to Ferrari in 2014 and in his seven seasons with the team has won 14 times, most recently in Singapore last year. In all, he has 53 wins, 120 podium finishes, 57 pole positions and 3002 championship points.

RACE STEWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

DR GERD ENNSER

MEMBER OF THE DMSB'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR AUTOMOBILE SPORT, FORMULA 1 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 1 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.



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.



MIKA SALO

FORMER F1 DRIVER, MEMBER OF THE FIA SINGLE-SEATER COMMISSION

Finnish racer Mika Salo competed in over 100 grands prix between 1994-2002. After junior success in Britain and Japan, Salo made his Formula 1 debut for Lotus at the last two rounds of the 1994 season. Over the next eight years the Finn drove for Tyrrell, Arrows, BAR, Ferrari, Sauber and Toyota. He twice finished on the podium for Ferrari and scored points for Toyota in the Japanese manufacturer's debut race. After calling time on his F1 career, Salo competed predominantly in sports cars, most notably racing in GT classes. He has GT2 victories at both Le Mans and Sebring to his name, and in 2007 won the GT class in ALMS. He also tried his hand in CART and Australian V8s. Salo is still a familiar face in the Formula 1 paddock, working extensively for Finnish TV among other roles.



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.



2020 FIA Formula One World Championship

DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

		AUSTRIA	STYRIA	HUNGARY	GREAT BRITAIN	70 TH ANNIV.	SPAIN	BELGIUM	ITALY	TUSCANY	RUSSIA	EIFEL	PORTUGAL	E.-ROMAGNA	TURKEY	BAHRAIN	SAKHIR	ABU DHABI																					POINTS
1	L. HAMILTON	12 4	25 1	26 F1	25 1	19 F2	25 1	25 1	7 F7	26 F1																												190	
2	V. BOTTAS	25 1	18 2	15 3		15 3	16 F3	18 2	10 5	18 2																												135	
3	M. VERSTAPPEN		15 3	18 2	19 F2	25 1	18 2	15 3																															110
4	L. NORRIS	16 F3	10 5		10 5	2 9	1 10	6 7	12 4	8 6																													65
5	A. ALBON		12 4	10 5	4 8	10 5	4 8	8 6		15 3																													63
6	L. STROLL		6 7	12 4	2 9	8 6	12 4	2 9	15 3																														57
7	D. RICCIARDO		4 8	4 8	12 4				13 F4	8 6	12 4																												53
8	C. LECLERC	18 2			15 3	12 4				4 8																													49
9	S. PÉREZ	8 6	8 6	6 7				10 5	1 10	1 10	10 5																												44
10	P. GASLY	6 7			6 7		2 11	4 9	25 8																														43
11	C. SAINZ	10 5	3 F9	2 9			8 13		18 DNS																														41
12	E. OCON	4 8			8 6	4 8			10 5	4 8																													30
13	S. VETTEL	1 10		8 6	1 10		6 7			1 10																													17
14	D. KVYAT		1 10			1 10			2 9	6 7																													10
15	N. HÜLKENBERG					6 7																																	6
16	K. RÄIKÖNEN									2 9																													2
17	A. GIOVINAZZI	2 9																																					2
18	K. MAGNUSSEN			1 10																																			1
19	N. LATIFI																																						0
20	G. RUSSELL																																						0
21	R. GROSJEAN																																						0

F = POINT FOR FASTEST LAP

2020 FIA Formula One World Championship

CONSTRUCTORS' CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

	AUSTRA	STYRIA	HUNGARY	GREAT BRITAIN	70 TH ANNIV.	SPAIN	BELGIUM	ITALY	TUSCANY	RUSSIA	EIFEL	PORTUGAL	E.-ROMAGNA	TURKEY	BAHRAIN	SAKHIR	ABU DHABI					POINTS	
1	MERCEDES AMG PETRONAS MOTORSPORT	37 1 4	43 1 2	41 F 1 3	25 1 11	34 F 2 3	41 1 F 3	43 1 2	17 5 F 7	44 F 1 2													325
2	ASTON MARTIN RED BULL RACING		27 13 NC	28 3 4	23 2 5	35 F 2 8	22 1 5	23 2 8	15 3 6														173
3	MCLAREN F1 TEAM	26 F 3 5	13 5 F 9	2 9 13	10 5 13	2 9 13	9 6 10	6 7 NC	30 2 4	8 6 NC													106
4	BWT RACING POINT F1 TEAM	8 6 NC	-1 6 7	18 4 7	2 9 DNS	14 6 7	22 4 5	3 9 10	16 3 10	10 5 NC													92
5	RENAULT DP WORLD F1 TEAM	4 8 NC	4 8 NC	4 8 14	20 4 6	4 8 14		23 F 4 5	12 6 8	12 4 NC													83
6	SCUDERIA FERRARI	19 2 10		8 NC 11	16 6 10	12 4 12	6 7 NC			5 8 10													66
7	SCUDERIA ALPHATAURI HONDA	6 7 12	1 10 15		6 7 NC	1 10 11	2 9 12	4 8 11	27 1 9	6 7 NC													53
8	ALFA ROMEO RACING ORLEN	2 9 NC		15 14 17		14 15 17	14 16	12 NC	13 16	2 9 NC													4
9	HAAS F1 TEAM			1 10 16		16 16 NC	15 15 19	15 17	12 NC	12 NC													1
10	WILLIAMS RACING																						0

F = POINT FOR FASTEST LAP

FORMULA 1 TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Press conference 1400-1715

FRIDAY

Practice session 1 1100-1230

Press conference 1300-1400

Practice session 2 1500-1630

SATURDAY

Practice session 3 1200-1300

Qualifying 1500-1600

SUNDAY

Race 1410-1610

FIA COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

press@fia.com

T +33 1 43 12 58 15

