



# Race Preview

## 2018 BELGIAN GRAND PRIX

24 – 26 August 2018

Following the sport's traditional summer break, Formula 1 action resumes this weekend at one of grand prix racing's most challenging venues – Spa-Francorchamps, home of the Belgian Grand Prix, Round 13 of the 2018 FIA Formula 1 World Championship.

The longest track on the F1 calendar at just over 7km, Spa-Francorchamps is a daunting prospect for both teams and drivers. The track is a high-speed feast, with cars frequently reaching 320km/h or more, and with approximately 70 per cent of each lap spent at full throttle. However, the circuit is not simply about top speeds. The spectacular nature of the layout, with the track draped across the Ardennes hills, means that as well as one of the sport's longest full-throttle sections – a 20-second or more blast from the La Source hairpin to the braking zone of Les Combes – Spa features a number of technically demanding stretches, particularly in the second sector, where the downhill sweep from Rivage through Pouhon and Fagnes and all the way down to Paul Frère tests the nerve and skill of drivers to the utmost.

The power sensitive track is no less demanding for engineers who must balance a desire to reduce drag in order to get the most out of the high-speeds of sectors one and three with the need for more downforce in sector two. It's a delicate trade-off and teams who are able to effectively juggle the circuit's competing demands will prosper.

The other great imponderable in Belgium is the weather. Spa is notorious for the unpredictable nature of its climatic conditions and as is so often the case, long-range forecasts are indicating a mixed weekend, with showers predicted for both Saturday and Sunday.

In the Driver's Championship, leader Lewis Hamilton returns to F1 action with an enviable 24-point advantage over Sebastian Vettel, with Kimi Räikkönen a 43 points further back in third. The Constructors' Championship gap between Hamilton's Mercedes team and Vettel's Ferrari squad is narrower, however, with just 10 points separating the Silver Arrows from the Prancing Horse.



### CIRCUIT DE SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

**Length of lap:**

7.004km

**Lap record:**

1:46.577 (Sebastian Vettel, Ferrari, 2017)

**Start line/finish line offset:**

0.124km

**Total number of race laps: 44**

**Total race distance:**

308.052km

**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 ZONES

- ▶ There will be two DRS zones at Spa-Francorchamps. The detection point of the first is located 240m before Turn 2, with the activation point 210m after Turn 4. The second zone has a detection point 160m before Turn 18 and an activation point 30m after Turn 19.

<b>ROUND 13</b>	BELGIAN GRAND PRIX	<b>START TIME</b>	15:10 Local - 13:10 GMT	<b>KEY</b>	
<b>RACE DATE:</b>	26 AUG 2018	<b>CIRCUIT LENGTH:</b>	7.004KM	Speed Kmh	Timing Sector
<b>CIRCUIT NAME:</b>	CIRCUIT DE SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS	<b>RACE DISTANCE:</b>	308.052KM	Braking	Lap Time
<b>NUMBER OF LAPS:</b>	44	<b>LAP RECORD:</b>	1:46.577 - S Vettel [2017]	Gear	



## FAST FACTS

- ▶ This will be the 63rd FIA Formula 1 World Championship Belgian Grand Prix. The race was part of the first Formula 1 calendar in 1950 and in the decades since has only been absent from the schedule on six occasions: 1957, 1959, 1969, 1971, 2003 and 2006.
- ▶ This weekend marks the 51st time Spa-Francorchamps has hosted the race. The Belgian GP has been staged at two other circuits – Nivelles in 1972 and 1974 and Zolder in 1973, 1975-1982 and 1984.
- ▶ Michael Schumacher is the most successful driver at this race, with six victories, in 1992, 1995-1997 and 2001-2002, all at Spa. He's followed by Ayrton Senna who took five wins at Spa, in 1985 and then from 1988-1991.
- ▶ Of F1's current race drivers, Kimi Räikkönen has the most wins here, with four, scored in 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2009. Victory last year, allied to wins in 2010 and 2015, mean Lewis Hamilton could match Räikkönen's total this weekend. Sebastian Vettel has two victories here, in 2011 and 2013, while Daniel Ricciardo won in 2014.
- ▶ Ferrari is the most successful constructor with 16 Belgian Grand Prix wins. McLaren are next on the list with 14, followed by Lotus, with eight. At this circuit, Ferrari and McLaren are tied on 12 wins apiece.
- ▶ Hamilton this weekend has the chance to establish a new benchmark for pole positions at the Belgian Grand Prix. Poles in 2008, 2013, 2015 and 2017 mean he's currently tied at the top of the list with Juan Manuel Fangio, Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost.
- ▶ Over the past decade the man on pole has won on five occasions. Three of those have come in the past three years, with Mercedes winning in 2015 and 2017 with Hamilton and in 2016 with Nico Rosberg.
- ▶ Vettel has more fastest laps at Spa than any other current driver. The German set fastest race laps in 2009 and 2013, with Red Bull Racing and last year with Ferrari. Alain Prost tops the all-time list with six.
- ▶ If Kimi Räikkönen finishes in the top three this weekend, it will mark the Finn's 100th Formula 1 podium. Räikkönen's first was achieved with P3 at the 2002 Australian GP and his most recent was at this year's Hungarian GP, where he finished third. Should he appear on the podium on Sunday he will become one of just five drivers to record 100 F1 podium finishes. The others are Michael Schumacher (155), Hamilton (126), Prost (106) and Vettel (106).
- ▶ Five drivers have scored their maiden F1 win in Belgium. Peter Collins won with Ferrari in 1956, while Jim Clark took the first of 25 career wins in 1962, with Lotus. Gunnar Nilsson also won with Lotus, the Swede's 1977 success being his only F1 victory. Didier Pironi gave the Ligier team the fifth of nine F1 wins, at Zolder in 1980, while Michael Schumacher scored the first of his record 91 career wins at Spa in 1992, with Benetton.
- ▶ Three manufacturers have recorded a first win in Belgium. Eagle, with owner Dan Gurney at the wheel, won in 1967. This year marks the 50th anniversary of McLaren's first victory, with team boss Bruce McLaren driving, and 20 years since Jordan's first win – and it's only 1-2 finish – with Damon Hill victorious ahead of team-mate Ralf Schumacher.

# 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.



## ENZO SPANO

**PRESIDENT OF THE SPORTING COMMISSION OF THE  
AUTOMOBILE AND TOURING CLUB OF VENEZUELA**

Italian-born Vincenzo Spano grew up in Venezuela, where he went on to study at the Universidad Central de Venezuela, becoming an attorney-at-law. Spano has wide-ranging experience in motor sport, from national to international level. He has worked for the Touring y Automóvil Club de Venezuela since 1991, and served as President of the Sporting Commission since 2001. He was president for two terms and now sits as a member of the Board of the Nacam-FIA zone. Since 1995 Spano has been a licenced steward and obtained his FIA steward superlicence in 2003. Spano has been involved with the FIA and FIA Institute in various roles since 2001: as a member of the World Motor Sport Council, the FIA Committee, and the executive committee of the former FIA Institute.



## 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 One 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.







# 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** 1330

**Race** 1510

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 front of the entrance to the media centre.

### 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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