

Friday 20 May 2022

Drugovich heads up field in red flag-impacted session

Felipe Drugovich led the way in Formula 2 Free Practice after multiple red flag stoppages curtailed running ahead of Qualifying. The MP Motorsport driver was almost a full half-second clear of the pack, with Jehan Daruvala and Logan Sargeant his closest challengers 0.4 and 0.5s behind him.

Olli Caldwell and Marcus Armstrong both brought out red flags during the session, with the Campos Racing driver hitting the wall at Turn 9. Meanwhile, Armstrong became beached in the gravel at Turn 4 as drivers struggled for grip under the midday sun.

Championship leader Théo Pourchaire was out first for an immediate installation lap but there was no rush to get out on track for anyone. The Van Amersfoort Racing duo of Jake Hughes and Amaury Cordeel set the initial times to beat with the latter's 1:32.609 the fastest time of the early lappers.

Just as the circuit began to fill up, a red flag was thrown for Olli Caldwell, who hit the barriers on the exit of Turn 9 on his first flying lap. The Campos man was able to get out of the car himself after losing the rear end mid-corner and nosing into the barriers.

After the brief stoppage, the session resumed with 26 minutes remaining and a long train of cars led by Frederik Vesti returned to the circuit. Marcus Armstrong was one of the first drivers to get onto a push lap, but he brought out the red flags for the second time in Free Practice.

The Hitech Grand Prix driver dropped the rear of his car at Turn 4 and spun into the gravel after setting the fastest first sector time of the session. Agonisingly for the Briton, he couldn't get back onto track and his car had to be recovered by the marshals.

The session was back to green flag conditions with just over 16 minutes remaining and there was a rush to get out to make up for the lost time. The timing screens lit up immediately with purple sector times, but it was Dennis Hauger who topped the times after the first flying laps with a 1:31.707.

Felipe Drugovich had gone well during in-season testing at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya earlier this year and the Brazilian carried on from where he'd left off, going eight-tenths faster than Hauger on his first lap.

Another wide moment at Turn 4 brought out some brief yellow flags but Jehan Daruvala was able to keep his momentum going to escape the gravel trap and continue his session. He made amends quickly, going second-fastest on his next lap and ahead of his PREMA Racing teammate.

Logan Sargeant, Jack Doohan, Jüri Vips and Ayumu Iwasa each were able to improve their times to bump Hauger down the order to ninth. Liam Lawson was able to improve his way up the order, with consecutive laps taking him sixth and then fifth in the order by the chequered flag. Pourchaire ended the session eight-fastest with Trident's Calan Williams rounding out the top 10.

2022 FIA FORMULA 2 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 4 FREE PRACTICE PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	TEAM
1	Felipe Drugovich	MP Motorsport
2	Jehan Daruvala	PREMA Racing
3	Logan Sargeant	Carlin
4	Jack Doohan	Virtuosi Racing
5	Liam Lawson	Carlin
6	Jüri Vips	Hitech Grand Prix
7	Ayumu Iwasa	DAMS
8	Théo Pourchaire	ART Grand Prix
9	Dennis Hauger	PREMA Racing
10	Calan Williams	Trident
11	Enzo Fittipaldi	Charouz Racing System
12	Marino Sato	Virtuosi Racing
13	Frederik Vesti	ART Grand Prix
14	Richard Verschoor	Trident
15	Clément Novalak	MP Motorsport
16	Amaury Cordeel	Van Amersfoort Racing
17	Ralph Boschung	Campos Racing
18	Roy Nissany	DAMS
19	Jake Hughes	Van Amersfoort Racing
20	Cem Bölükbaşı	Charouz Racing System
21	Marcus Armstrong	Hitech Grand Prix
22	Olli Caldwell	Campos Racing

ENDS

Notes to editors

A selection of high-resolution images and prints from this session are now available via our [media platform](#), along with a variety of driver interviews, press conference transcripts and the FIA Formula 2 media kit.

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