

Friday 10 June 2022

Jüri Vips tops Baku Free Practice after two red flags

Hitech Grand Prix's Jüri Vips was the fastest man in the first Formula 2 session of the Baku weekend. The Estonian left it late but was the only driver in the 1:55s, narrowly ahead of Liam Lawson.

The Carlin driver ended the session second-fastest ahead of Marcus Armstrong, Jack Doohan and Frederik Vesti, but all the drivers ended up getting less track time than they would have hoped around the fast-paced Baku City Circuit.

Free Practice got underway with conditions very blustery. Strong winds kept the trees that line the circuit blowing as the drivers took to the track for their initial laps. A dusty track surface meant lap times were unrepresentative in the early phases of the session

Ralph Boschung took the top spot with a 1:56.911 as more competitive times filtered in, two-tenths clear of Lawson in P2. PREMA Racing's Dennis Hauger occupied third position, almost a second down on Boschung's session-topping effort.

Enzo Fittipaldi was the first to have a brush with the wall. The Charouz Racing System driver nudged the exit wall at Turn 4 but was able to continue without any visible concerns. Clément Novalak found himself facing the wall in the first sector soon after, bringing out the red flag. He avoided any contact with the barriers but couldn't find reverse, necessitating a recovery of the MP Motorsport car.

The session was back to green with 20 minutes remaining, but not for long. Boschung's joy at the top was short-lived as he was the next to find the wall. The Campos Racing man lost the rear end of his car on downshift and spun backwards into the barrier at Turn 5, bringing out the red flags once more.

Green flags were back waving in the breeze with six minutes left of the only practice session of the weekend. It prompted a rush to get out on track and make use of the final moments of running time ahead of Qualifying.

With the track at its best entering the final two minutes, improvements began to filter through. Hauger moved up to second until teammate Jehan Daruvala took the top spot on his final lap with a 1:56.698.

Felipe Drugovich matched Daruvala's time but Jüri Vips left it until the dying moments of the session to take the top spot and break into the 1:55s. The Hitech man set a 1:55.924 to end Practice fastest of all.

CONTINUES

2022 FIA FORMULA 2 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 6 FREE PRACTICE PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

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

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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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