

Friday 18 March 2022

**Doohan dominant in Sakhir to take pole for Virtuosi ahead of Pourchaire**

Virtuosi Racing rookie Jack Doohan took an emphatic first pole position of the year in Formula 2, utilizing an almost empty track to set a 1:40.542, when the majority of the field were busy in the pitlane changing their tyres.

ART Grand Prix's Théo Pourchaire and Hitech Grand Prix's Jüri Vips attempted to beat the Australian's time in the second half of the session, but both felt short and had to settle for second and third, respectively.

All 22 cars emerged from the pitlane when the lights went green, but the session was red-flagged before they'd all made it out on the tarmac as Ayumu Iwasa's DAMS came to a halt, forcing a stoppage as the marshals wheeled it off the track and out of the session.

The remaining 21 cars fed out onto the track when the session resumed, led by Van Amersfoort Racing duo Jake Hughes and Amaury Cordeel, who had seen their F3 counterpart Franco Colapinto take pole in the third tier earlier on Friday.

Looking to make it two VAR drivers on pole, Hughes was sat in P1 after the first set of flying laps, setting a cool 1:41.469 to lead Doohan. The British driver remained there after the second lot of fast laps, this time beating the morning's quickest man, Felipe Drugovich.

PREMA had yet to set a representative time and opted to run their pairing in the gap, with Jehan Daruvala emerging in fifth, while Hauger had to settle for P13. Doohan had also decided to make the most of the empty track and delivered a statement lap, launching to first by more than half a second thanks to two purple sectors.

1:40.542 had become the time to beat as those who had gone into the pits at the halfway point returned to the tarmac with a fresh pair of soft Pirelli boots.

Vips was the only driver to come close to Doohan on the first run of the second set of tyres, but the Hitech racer's effort was only good enough for second, as he fell two tenths short of the Australian.

Pourchaire briefly put himself on the front row but saw his time deleted for exceeding track limits. Dusting himself off, the ART Grand Prix driver went again and matched his previous effort, going second once again, one-tenth off P1, to push Vips down to third.

**CONTINUE**

There was still time to be found in the final minutes as Ralph Boschung put his Campos in fifth between the two Carlin drivers, with Logan Sargeant in fourth and Liam Lawson in sixth.

Daruvala left it late, but the Red Bull junior returned to the track with just enough time to spare and found the pace for seventh.

After leading for much of the session, Hughes had fallen to eighth at the flag, which still marked a solid effort for VAR on their debut. Richard Verschoor earned Trident a spot in the top 10, taking ninth, with Drugovich ending Qualifying in 10th.

The Brazilian MP Motorsport racer will start from pole on Saturday evening's reverse grid at 7.40pm local time.

**CONTINUES**

## 2022 FIA FORMULA 2 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 1 QUALIFYING PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

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

### NOT CLASSIFIED

	Ayumu Iwasa	DAMS
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**ENDS**

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