

Friday 16 July 2021

Piastrì dominates in Silverstone to take maiden pole

Oscar Piastrì became the fourth different polesitter in as many rounds with a dominant performance at Silverstone, setting the fastest lap of the session in the first stint, before a Robert Schwartzman crash brought out a Red Flag and ended Qualifying prematurely.

Championship leader Guanyu Zhou snuck into second with a late lap but was 0.221s off Piastrì's poletime of 1:39.854. MP Motorsport's Richard Verschoor scored his best Qualifying position with third, just over four-tenths off the leader.

Christian Lundgaard escorted the field out onto a hot and sunny Silverstone circuit, with a track temperature of 42 degrees. Lapping at 1:40.962, Felipe Drugovich led the first round of fast runs, beating Dan Ticktum's Free Practice topping time by more than a second.

There was enough life left in the medium Pirellis for another flyer and Piastrì was determined to make the most of it, lunging to first with 1:39.854. Meanwhile, Drugovich was bumped down to third by Ticktum, although the Carlin driver remained half a second off Piastrì.

After a stint in the pits for fresh rubber, the field returned to the track with just a second separating the top 12. Piastrì couldn't make any improvements on his quickest time, but neither could his rivals, with the Australian retaining his half a second buffer in first.

Zhou was left thanking his lucky stars as the UNI-Virtuosi racer crossed the line just moments before a Red Flag ended the session. And it was a significant improvement too, with the Chinese racer leaping from 10th to second in the order, thanks to a purple first sector and a personal best second sector.

The session-ending Red Flag came when Schwartzman spun and beached his PREMA in the gravel at Stowe with just two minutes to go. Although, the Russian could consolidate himself with a solid finishing position of P7.

Like Zhou, Verschoor had also managed to beat the Red Flag and nabbed himself a top-three spot, setting 1:40.259s to drop Ticktum down to P4.

Théo Pourchaire completed the top five for ART Grand Prix, ahead of early pacesetter Felipe Drugovich. Roy Nissany scored eighth for DAMS, as Jüri Vips and Lundgaard completed the top 10.

2021 FIA FORMULA 2 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 4 QUALIFYING PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	TEAM
1	Oscar Piastri	PREMA Racing
2	Guanyu Zhou	UNI-Virtuosi
3	Richard Verschoor	MP Motorsport
4	Dan Ticktum	Carlin
5	Théo Pourchaire	ART Grand Prix
6	Felipe Drugovich	UNI-Virtuosi
7	Robert Shwartzman	PREMA Racing
8	Roy Nissany	DAMS
9	Jüri Vips	Hitech Grand Prix
10	Christian Lundgaard	ART Grand Prix
11	Liam Lawson	Hitech Grand Prix
12	Jehan Daruvala	Carlin
13	Lirim Zendeli	MP Motorsport
14	Marcus Armstrong	DAMS
15	Ralph Boschung	Campos Racing
16	Matteo Nannini	Campos Racing
17	Bent Viscaal	Trident
18	David Beckmann	Charouz Racing System
19	Jack Aitken	HWA RACELAB
20	Guilherme Samaia	Charouz Racing System
21	Marino Sato	Trident
22	Alessio Deledda	HWA RACELAB

ENDS