



Race Preview

2014 ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX
21 – 23 NOVEMBER 2014



After eight months and 18 races, the 2014 Formula One season this weekend reaches a title-deciding climax with the final round - the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

And this year the grand finale, at the state-of-the-art Yas Marina Circuit, will have a unique feel, as for the first time a Formula One grand prix will offer double points for the top 10 positions.

Going into the weekend, championship leader Lewis Hamilton holds a 17-point advantage over Mercedes teammate and sole title rival Nico Rosberg, giving rise to a number of title permutations.

Even if Rosberg takes the 50 points on offer for victory, second place will be enough for Hamilton to become World Champion for the second time. If Rosberg is second, then Hamilton would only need fifth place to be crowned champion. Third place for Rosberg would leave Hamilton requiring a sixth-place finish.

Rosberg must finish in the top five to have any chance of taking a first world title. If he finishes sixth or lower Hamilton can afford to retire from the race and still become champion.

F1's only day/night race is run of a circuit consisting of three distinct sectors. The first features fast, flowing corners ending in a hairpin that gives way to a second sector consisting of two long straights which end in heavy-braking corners where overtaking is a possibility. The winding final stretch features a complex of low-speed corners that place a premium on aerodynamic grip and balance. With three such different sections finding the right set-up to meet its many demands is more difficult than usual.

It is, then, a weekend of exciting imponderables at the end of which one thing is certain – Formula One will crown a Mercedes works team driver champion for the first time since 1955. The question is, which one will it be?

CIRCUIT DATA

YAS MARINA CIRCUIT

Length of lap:
5.554km

Lap record:
1:40.279 (Sebastian Vettel,
Red Bull Racing 2009)

Start line/finish line offset:
0.115km

Total number of race laps:
55

Total race distance:
305.355km

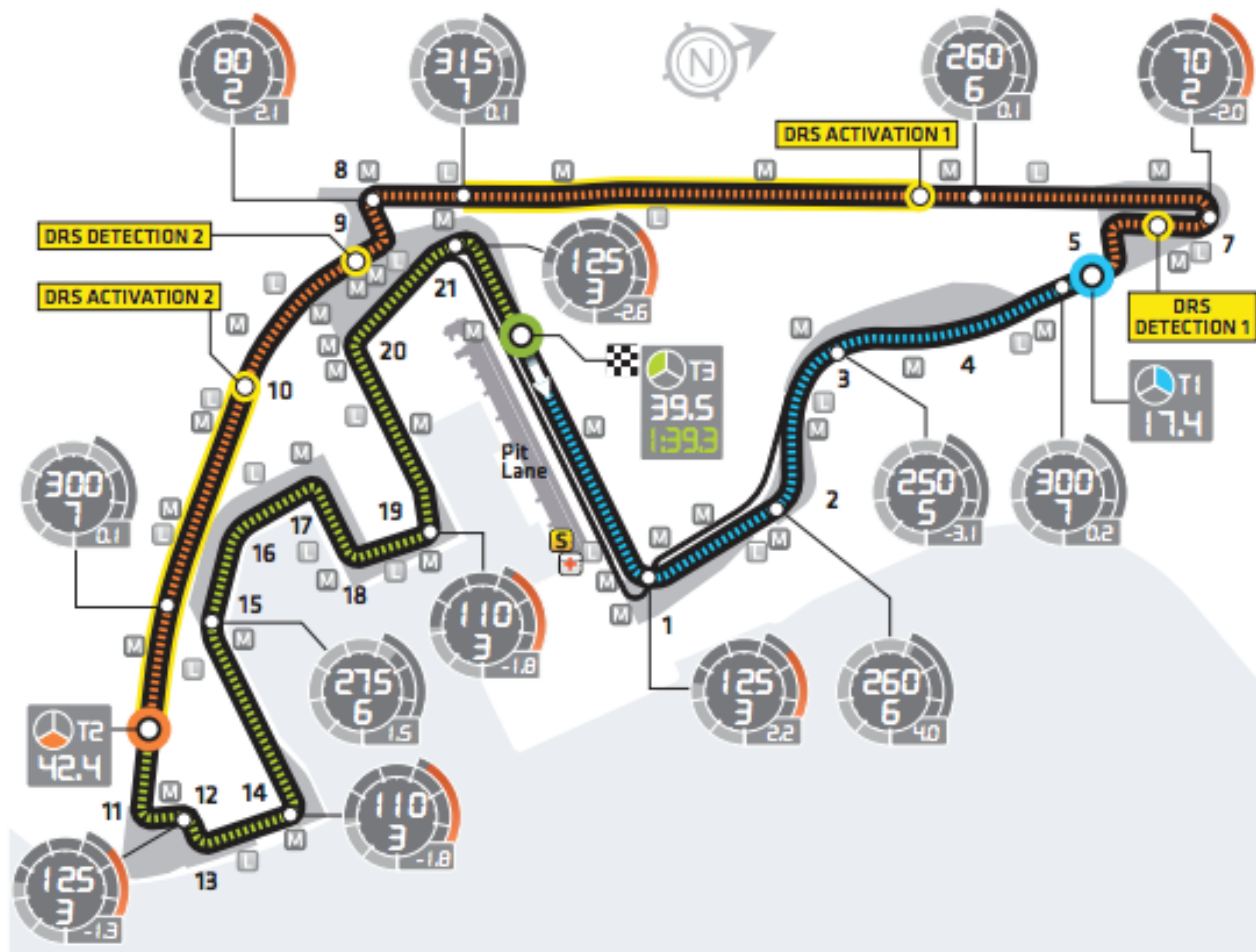
Pitlane speed limits:
80km/h in practice, qualifying
and the race.

CIRCUIT NOTES

- ▶ Other than routine maintenance, no significant work has been carried out.

DRS ZONES

- ▶ There will be two DRS zones for the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The first detection point will be 40m before Turn Seven, with the activation point 390m after Turn Seven. The second detection point will be 50m after Turn Nine with the activation point at Turn 10.



Abu Dhabi GP Fast Facts

- ▶ This will be the sixth Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The Yas Marina circuit made its Formula One calendar debut on November 1, 2009.
- ▶ Abu Dhabi has twice hosted the season finale – in 2009 and 2010. It has, however, so far been the venue for just one championship decider. That was in 2010 when Sebastian Vettel came out on top in a four-way battle for the championship featuring Red Bull Racing team-mate Mark Webber, Ferrari's Fernando Alonso and Lewis Hamilton, then driving for McLaren. Vettel took victory to win the title by four points from Alonso, who finished the race in seventh.
- ▶ This year's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix will mark Vettel's final race for Red Bull Racing before he heads for a new team in 2015. He won the inaugural event here in his first season with Red Bull Racing, became the sport's youngest championship with victory in 2010 and won here last year.
- ▶ The other two winners here are also F1 champions. Lewis Hamilton,

winner of the 2008 title, won here in 2011 for McLaren, while 2007 world champion Kimi Raikkonen won for Lotus in 2012. Raikkonen's 2012 victory was his first since Belgium 2009, shortly before he took a two-year hiatus from the sport. He has won just once since, in Australia last year, again with Lotus.

- ▶ This race is, of course, Formula One's first double points race and the scoring system could significantly alter the Drivers' Championship order, not least in determining the destination of the title. However, one man who won't be changing position in the standings, no matter what happens, is Daniel Ricciardo. The Australian sits in third place on the table, 103, points behind Nico Rosberg and 55 points clear of fourth-place Red Bull team-mate Vettel.
- ▶ While Vettel is the only multiple winner here, he is joined on the list of repeat pole position winners by Hamilton. Vettel started from the front in 2010 and 2011, while Hamilton was

on pole in 2009 and 2012. The only other man to take pole here is Mark Webber, in 2013, for Red Bull Racing.

- ▶ The race has been won once from pole – by Vettel in 2010. In 2009, '11 and '13 it was won from second on the grid and in 2012 from fourth.
- ▶ Felipe Massa is the only current driver to score points in every one of his Yas Marina outings. The Brazilian missed the inaugural race but since then has finished 10th, fifth, seventh and eighth.
- ▶ Pirelli will this weekend bring its Soft an Supersoft compounds. The combination has been used five times this season – in Monaco, Canada, Austria, Germany and in Singapore.
- ▶ The Caterham F1 team is set to return to racing in Abu Dhabi after missing the last two grands prix. Kamui Kobayashi will drive one of its cars at the venue where he scored his first championship points, with sixth place for Toyota in 2009. He also finished in the points here in 2011 (10th) and 2012 (sixth) with Sauber.

Abu Dhabi GP

Race Stewards

Biographies

PAUL GUTJAHR

PRESIDENT OF THE FIA HILL CLIMB COMMISSION, BOARD MEMBER AND PRESIDENT OF AUTO SPORT SUISSE SARL

Paul Gutjahr started racing in the late 1960s with Alfa Romeo, Lancia, Lotus and Porsche, then March in Formula 3. In the early '70s he became President of the Automobile Club Berne and organised numerous events. He acted as President of the organising committee of the Swiss GP at Dijon between 1980-82. Between 1980-2005 he acted as President of the Commission Sportive Nationale de l'Automobile Club de Suisse and in 2005 he became President and board member of the Auto Sport Suisse motor sports club. Gutjahr is President of the Alliance of European Hill Climb Organisers and has been steward at various high-level international competitions. He was the Formula 3000 Sporting Commissioner and has been a Formula One steward since 1995.



STEVE STRINGWELL

PERMANENT CHAIRMAN STEWARD FOR PORSCHE SUPERCUP, RENAULT 3.5 SERIES, BRITISH TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP

Englishman Steve Stringwell brings a wealth of experience to the F1 stewarding panel. He began marshalling in 1967 before spending 15 years rallying. Since 1986 he has held a series of posts within the UK's Motor Sports Association, first as a steward, then chairman of the MSA's national court and latterly as chairman of the MSA's Judicial Advisory Panel. Stringwell serves as permanent chairman steward for the Porsche Supercup, the Formula Renault 3.5 series and the British Touring Car Championship. He has been chairman of support race stewards at the British Grand Prix since 2005 and has officiated at F1 grands prix since 2012. At home in Yorkshire he is a Justice of the Peace and magistrate in the city of Leeds.



DANNY SULLIVAN

FORMER F1 DRIVER, INDIANAPOLIS 500 WINNER AND CART CHAMPION

US racer Danny Sullivan made his F1 debut with Tyrrell at the 1983 Brazilian Grand Prix. He raced just one season in F1, scoring a best result of fifth in Monaco. In 1984, Sullivan returned to the US where he resumed a successful Indy Car career. He is perhaps best known for his 'spin and win' victory at the 1985 Indianapolis 500, where he passed leader Mario Andretti, survived a 360 degree spin, and then caught and re-passed Andretti to claim the Borg-Warner Trophy. He won the Indy Car World Series title in 1988. After 17 victories from 170 Indy Car starts he drew a line under his open-wheel career in 1995. He finished third in the Le Mans 24 Hours in a Dauer Porsche 962 in 1994. He made four starts at Le Mans, the most recent being 2004.



Abu Dhabi GP Championship Standings (Constructors)

	Australia	Malaysia	Bahrain	China	Spain	Monaco	Canada	Austria	GB	Germany	Hungary	Belgium	Italy	Singapore	Japan	Russia	USA	Brazil	Abu Dhabi	POINTS
1. Mercedes AMG Petronas	25	43	43	43	43	43	18	43	25	40	27	18	43	25	43	43	43	43	--	651
2. Infiniti Red Bull Racing	0	15	20	22	27	15	40	4	25	20	31	35	18	33	27	10	21	10	--	373
3. Williams Martini Racing	10	10	10	6	10	6	6	27	18	18	14	15	27	10	14	15	22	16	--	254
4. Scuderia Ferrari	18	12	3	19	14	12	9	11	8	10	26	18	2	16	0	10	8	14	--	210
5. McLaren Mercedes	33	10	0	0	0	9	14	6	18	6	1	8	5	1	10	22	4	14	--	161
6. Sahara Force India F1 Team	9	10	25	10	3	10	10	10	4	7	0	5	6	8	5	1	0	4	--	127
7. Scuderia Toro Rosso	6	1	0	1	0	0	4	0	3	0	2	2	0	8	2	0	1	0	--	30
8. Lotus F1 Team	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	--	10
9. Marussia F1 Team	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	2
10. Sauber F1 Team	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	0
11. Caterham F1 Team	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	0

Abu Dhabi GP

Formula One Timetable & FIA Media Schedule

THURSDAY

Press conference 15.00

FRIDAY

Practice session 1 13.00-14.30

Practice session 2 17.00-18.30

Press conference 19.00

SATURDAY

Practice session 3 14.00-15.00

Qualifying 17.00-18.00

Followed by unilateral and press conference

SUNDAY

Drivers' Parade 15.30

Race 17.00-19.00

Followed by podium interviews and press conference

ADDITIONAL MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

QUALIFYING

All drivers eliminated in Q1 or Q2 are available for media interviews immediately after the end of each session, as are drivers who participated in Q3, but who are not required for the post-qualifying press conference. The TV interview pen is located in the paddock in front of 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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