



Race Preview

2018 ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX

23 – 25 November 2018

Over 240 days after cars first took to the track in Melbourne to begin this year's campaign and after more than 21,300 individual laps have been raced at 20 events in 20 countries, the 2018 FIA Formula One Championship draws to a close this weekend at the 21st and final event of the year – the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

Since making its F1 calendar debut in 2009, futuristic Yas Marina Circuit has become the traditional and popular home of the sport's final round, hosting six of the last nine season-ending races. The track is made up of two opening sectors that feature a number of high-speed sections, followed a final slower, more technical segment. As a whole, the circuit thus provides a thorough workout for cars, and presents engineers with a set-up conundrum as they attempt to strike the perfect balance between straightline speed to make the most of the first and second sector and aerodynamic grip to optimise lap time in the closing sector.

A further complicating factor is the day/night nature of the race. Following a 17:10 local time start, track temperatures drop steeply during the race, typically by around 15°C over the course of the 55 laps. The variation means that tyre performance can change dramatically, and with only FP2 providing similar conditions, accurately forecasting tyre behaviour in the race can be tricky. To cope with the conditions, tyre supplier Pirelli is bringing its softest compounds to this event – the Supersoft, Ultrasoft and Hypersoft.

With confirmation of Lewis Hamilton's fifth Drivers' title coming in Mexico last month and with Mercedes sealing a fifth consecutive Constructors' title in Brazil a fortnight ago, attention turns to the lower placings. In the Drivers' competition, Valtteri Bottas (237 points) can overhaul Kimi Räikkönen (251) in the race for third overall, but Bottas' current fourth spot is under threat from Red Bull Racing's Max Verstappen. With a win and a second place from the last two events, the Dutchman is now just three points behind the Mercedes driver. In the teams' battle, the closest contest is for P7, with Racing Point Force India on 48 points, six ahead of Sauber.



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

- ▶ The orange bumps on the right between Turns 12 and 13 have been extended by some 16m.
- ▶ A 50mm high 'sausage' kerb has been added behind the negative kerb on the exit of Turn 21.

DRS ZONE

- ▶ There will be two DRS zones in Abu Dhabi. The first zone's detection point will be 40m before Turn 7, with an activation point 270m after Turn 7. The second detection point is 50m after Turn 9 and the second activation takes place 165m after Turn 9.

ROUND 21	ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX	START TIME	17:10 Local - 13:10 GMT
RACE DATE:	25 NOV 2018	CIRCUIT LENGTH:	5.554KM
CIRCUIT NAME:	YAS MARINA CIRCUIT	RACE DISTANCE:	305.355KM
NUMBER OF LAPS:	55	LAP RECORD:	1:40.279 - S Vettel [2009]

Note: Lap & Sector times, Speeds & Gears are based upon 2017 Qualifying data

KEY	
Speed Kmh	Sector Time
Braking 125 3	Gear T3
	Timing Sector 38.1
	Lap Time 1:36.2
Sector 1	Sector 2
Sector 3	
Circuit	Start
Finish	
DRS Detection	DRS Activation
Run-off Areas	
FIA Medical & Safety Cars	Marshal Posts
	Light Panels



FAST FACTS

- ▶ This is the 10th Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The race joined the calendar in 2009 and has been ever present since.
- ▶ Sebastian Vettel and Hamilton are the most successful drivers at this event. Both drivers have three wins to their credit, with Vettel victorious for Red Bull Racing in 2009, 2010 and 2013 and Hamilton triumphant in 2011 with McLaren and in 2014 and 2016 with Mercedes. Both drivers have three other podium finishes: Vettel finished third in 2012, 2016 and last year, while Hamilton has three second places – in 2010, 2015 and 2017.
- ▶ Apart from Hamilton and Vettel there are two other Abu Dhabi Grand Prix winners on the grid this year – Kimi Räikkönen and Valtteri Bottas. Räikkönen won with Lotus in 2012, while Bottas was victorious last year with Mercedes.
- ▶ The only other current driver with a podium finish to his name here is Fernando Alonso. The Spaniard finished second in 2011 and in 2012. Both podiums were scored while driving for Ferrari. Aside from their wins, Räikkönen and Bottas also have single third place finishes to their name here. Bottas' came in 2014 with Williams, while Räikkönen's was scored in 2015 with Ferrari.
- ▶ Mercedes is the most successful constructor at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The Silvers Arrows have won the last four editions of the race. Red Bull are next on the list with three wins, in 2009, 2010 and 2013. The only other teams to win here are McLaren in 2011 and Lotus in 2012.
- ▶ Hamilton has the most pole positions here, with three. The Briton started from the front of the grid in 2009, 2012 and in 2016. Only in 2016 did he manage to convert pole into a win. On both the other occasions he failed to finish. A brake problem ended his 2009 race after 20 laps, while a fuel pressure problem resulted in a DNF after 19 laps in 2012.
- ▶ Fernando Alonso is set to bow out of Formula 1 this weekend, at least for the foreseeable future. This will be his 311th grand prix start. Across a grand prix racing career that began in 2001 and which encompassed stints with Minardi, Renault, McLaren and Ferrari, he has taken 32 wins, 65 other podiums, 22 pole positions, and, of course, won two world titles – in 2005 and 2006, with Renault.
- ▶ Two other drivers confirmed as bidding farewell to F1 this weekend are Marcus Ericsson and Stoffel Vandoorne. Ericsson made his F1 debut with Caterham at the 2014 Australian Grand Prix. He joined Sauber for 2015 and has raced for the Swiss team since. The Swede is set to make his 97th start here and will bid to add to his current career tally of 18 championship points. Vandoorne made his debut at the 2016 Bahrain Grand Prix, standing in at McLaren for the injured Alonso. All of Vandoorne's 40 races to date have been with McLaren and he currently has a career total of 26 points.
- ▶ Daniel Ricciardo is due to celebrate a different milestone on Sunday – his 150th F1 start. The Australian made his grand prix debut at the 2011 British GP, driving for HRT. Since then he has scored seven wins, 22 other podiums finishes and three pole positions, all achieved during his five seasons with Red Bull Racing. Sunday will also be his 100th and final start for the team, as he is moving to Renault next season.

RACE STEWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

GARRY CONNELLY

**CHAIRMAN, AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MOTOR SPORT SAFETY;
F1 STEWARD; FIA WORLD MOTOR SPORT COUNCIL MEMBER, FIA
SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Garry Connelly has been involved in motor sport since the late 1960s. A long-time rally competitor, Connelly was instrumental in bringing the World Rally Championship to Australia in 1988 and served as Chairman of the Organising Committee, Board member and Clerk of Course of Rally Australia until December 2002. He has been an FIA Steward and FIA Observer since 1989, covering the FIA's World Rally Championship, World Touring Car Championship and Formula One Championship. He is Chairman of the Australian Institute of Motor Sport Safety and director of the Australian Road Safety Foundation. He is a member of the FIA World Motor Sport Council, member of the FIA Scientific Advisory Committee and FIA Environmental Delegate.



DENNIS DEAN

**FIA WORLD MOTOR SPORT COUNCIL MEMBER; MEMBER,
INTERNATIONAL SPORTING CODE REVIEW COMMISSION;
F2, FORMULA E STEWARD**

Dennis Dean has been involved in motor sport since becoming a scrutineer with the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) in the late 1970s. He has served at national level as a scrutineer, steward, and race director, including 10 years as either assistant chief steward or chief steward (race director) of the SCCA's National Championship Runoffs. He has scrutineered at 10 US Formula One races, in Las Vegas, Indianapolis and Austin. He was also vice president of Club Racing and Rally/Solo for SCCA. He currently serves as a member of both the FIA's International Sporting Code Review Commission.



FELIPE GIAFFONE

**FORMER INDYCAR DRIVER, MEMBER OF THE FIA TRUCK
RACING COMMISSION**

After a championship-winning junior kart and single-seater career in his native Brazil, Paulista Felipe Giaffone went to the US in 1995 where he became Formula Atlantic Rookie of the Year. In 2000 he progressed to the Indy Lights series taking one win, at the Firestone 400, in his debut season, as well as nine other podium finishes. In 2001 he made his IndyCar debut, taking another Rookie of the Year award. Giaffone's best season in the series came the following year when he took one win, at Kentucky Speedway, and four other podium finishes on his way to fourth place overall. That year he also scored his best result from six Indianapolis 500 starts between 2001 and 2006, finishing third. From 2007 on Giaffone raced in Fórmula Truck, winning the Brazilian championship in 2007, 2009 and 2011. He also won the South American Championship in 2011. As well as TV work from 2009 to date, Giaffone has acted as a national steward at the Brazilian Grand Prix and in 2016 as an FIA international steward in WTCC. He is also President of the Brazilian Drivers' Association.



2018 FIA Formula One World Championship

DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

	AUSTRALIA	BAHRAIN	CHINA	AZERBAIJAN	SPAIN	MONACO	CANADA	FRANCE	AUSTRIA	GB	GERMANY	HUNGARY	BELGIUM	ITALY	SINGAPORE	RUSSIA	JAPAN	USA	MEXICO	BRAZIL	ABU DHABI	POINTS
1	L. HAMILTON	18 ₂	15 ₃	12 ₄	25 ₁	25 ₁	15 ₃	10 ₅	25 ₁	NC ₂	18 ₁	25 ₁	18 ₂	25 ₁	25 ₁	25 ₁	25 ₁	15 ₃	12 ₄	25 ₁		383
2	S. VETTEL	25 ₁	25 ₁	4 ₈	12 ₄	12 ₄	18 ₂	25 ₁	10 ₅	15 ₃	25 ₁	NC ₂	18 ₂	25 ₁	12 ₄	15 ₃	15 ₃	8 ₆	12 ₄	18 ₂	8 ₆	302
3	K. RÄIKKÖNEN	15 ₃	NC	15 ₃	18 ₂	NC	12 ₄	8 ₆	15 ₃	18 ₂	15 ₃	15 ₃	15 ₃	18 ₂	10 ₅	12 ₄	10 ₅	25 ₁	15 ₃	15 ₃		251
4	V. BOTTAS	4 ₈	18 ₂	18 ₂	14 ₁₄	18 ₂	10 ₅	18 ₂	6 ₇	NC	12 ₄	18 ₂	10 ₅	12 ₄	15 ₃	12 ₄	18 ₂	18 ₂	10 ₅	10 ₅	10 ₅	237
5	M. VERSTAPPEN	8 ₆	NC	10 ₅	NC	15 ₃	2 ₉	15 ₃	18 ₂	25 ₁	NC	12 ₄	NC	15 ₃	10 ₅	18 ₂	10 ₅	15 ₃	18 ₂	25 ₁	18 ₂	234
6	D. RICCIARDO	12 ₄	NC	25 ₁	NC	10 ₅	25 ₁	12 ₄	12 ₄	NC	10 ₅	NC	12 ₄	NC	NC	8 ₆	8 ₆	12 ₄	NC	NC	12 ₄	158
7	N. HÜLKENBERG	6 ₇	8 ₆	8 ₆	NC	NC	4 ₈	6 ₇	2 ₉	NC	8 ₆	10 ₅	12 ₄	NC	13 ₁₃	1 ₁₀	12 ₄	NC	8 ₆	8 ₆	NC	69
8	S. PÉREZ	11 ₁₁	16 ₁₆	12 ₁₂	3 ₃	15 ₁₅	2 ₉	12 ₁₂	14 ₁₄	NC	6 ₇	1 ₁₀	6 ₁₀	6 ₇	10 ₁₀	6 ₇	1 ₁₀	6 ₇	4 ₈	NC	1 ₁₀	58
9	K. MAGNUSSEN	NC	10 ₅	1 ₁₀	13 ₁₃	8 ₆	13 ₁₃	13 ₁₃	8 ₆	10 ₅	2 ₉	11 ₁₁	6 ₇	4 ₈	16 ₁₆	18 ₁₈	4 ₈	NC	DQ	15 ₁₅	2 ₉	55
10	F. ALONSO	10 ₅	6 ₇	6 ₇	6 ₇	4 ₈	NC	NC	16 ₁₆	4 ₈	4 ₈	16 ₁₆	4 ₈	NC	NC	6 ₇	14 ₁₄	14 ₁₄	NC	NC	17 ₁₇	50
11	E. OCON	12 ₁₂	1 ₁₀	11 ₁₁	NC	NC	8 ₆	2 ₉	NC	8 ₆	6 ₇	8 ₆	4 ₈	8 ₆	8 ₆	NC	2 ₉	2 ₉	DQ	11 ₁₁	15 ₁₅	49
12	C. SAINZ	1 ₁₀	11 ₁₁	2 ₉	10 ₅	6 ₇	1 ₁₀	4 ₈	4 ₈	NC	NC	12 ₄	NC	2 ₉	4 ₈	4 ₈	1 ₁₀	6 ₇	NC	NC	12 ₄	45
13	R. GROSJEAN	NC	13 ₁₃	17 ₁₇	NC	NC	15 ₁₅	12 ₄	11 ₁₁	12 ₄	NC	8 ₆	1 ₁₀	6 ₇	DQ	15 ₁₅	11 ₁₁	8 ₆	NC	16 ₁₆	4 ₈	35
14	C. LECLERC	13 ₁₃	12 ₁₂	19 ₁₉	8 ₆	1 ₁₀	18 ₁₈	1 ₁₀	1 ₁₀	2 ₉	NC	15 ₁₅	NC	NC	11 ₁₁	2 ₉	6 ₇	NC	NC	6 ₇	6 ₇	33
15	P. GASLY	NC	12 ₄	18 ₁₈	12 ₄	NC	6 ₇	11 ₁₁	NC	11 ₁₁	13 ₁₃	14 ₁₄	8 ₆	2 ₉	14 ₁₄	13 ₁₃	NC	11 ₁₁	12 ₄	10 ₅	13 ₁₃	29
16	S. VANDOORNE	2 ₉	4 ₈	13 ₁₃	2 ₉	NC	14 ₁₄	16 ₁₆	12 ₄	15 ₁₅	11 ₁₁	13 ₁₃	NC	15 ₁₅	12 ₄	12 ₄	16 ₁₆	15 ₁₅	11 ₁₁	8 ₆	14 ₁₄	12
17	M. ERICSSON	NC	2 ₉	16 ₁₆	11 ₁₁	13 ₁₃	11 ₁₁	15 ₁₅	13 ₁₃	10 ₅	NC	9 ₉	15 ₁₅	10 ₅	15 ₁₅	11 ₁₁	13 ₁₃	12 ₄	10 ₅	9 ₉	NC	9
18	L. STROLL	14 ₁₄	14 ₁₄	14 ₁₄	4 ₈	11 ₁₁	17 ₁₇	NC	17 ₁₇	14 ₁₄	12 ₄	NC	17 ₁₇	13 ₁₃	2 ₉	14 ₁₄	15 ₁₅	17 ₁₇	14 ₁₄	12 ₄	18 ₁₈	6
19	B. HARTLEY	15 ₁₅	17 ₁₇	20 ₂₀	1 ₁₀	12 ₄	19 ₁₉	NC	14 ₁₄	NC	NC	10 ₅	11 ₁₁	14 ₁₄	NC	17 ₁₇	NC	13 ₁₃	2 ₉	9 ₉	11 ₁₁	4
20	S. SIROTKIN	NC	15 ₁₅	15 ₁₅	NC	14 ₁₄	16 ₁₆	17 ₁₇	15 ₁₅	13 ₁₃	14 ₁₄	NC	16 ₁₆	12 ₄	1 ₁₀	19 ₁₉	18 ₁₈	16 ₁₆	13 ₁₃	13 ₁₃	16 ₁₆	1

FORMULA ONE TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Press conference 1500

FRIDAY

Practice session 1 1300-1430

Press conference 1500

Practice session 2 1700-1830

SATURDAY

Practice session 3 1400-1500

Qualifying 1700-1800

Followed by track interviews, press conference

SUNDAY

Drivers' Parade 1530

Race 1710

Followed by parc fermé interviews and press conference

ADDITIONAL MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

QUALIFYING

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

FIA COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

press@fia.com

T +33 1 43 12 58 15

