



# Race Preview

## 2018 BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX

06 – 08 April 2018

Formula One continues its early season long-haul programme this weekend with a visit to the Bahrain International Circuit, home of Bahrain Grand Prix, round two of the 2018 FIA Formula One World Championship

Australia was a relatively gentle introduction to the season for 2018's cars but Bahrain provides a stiffer challenge. Heat and dust are both notorious engine breakers, while the stop-start nature of the track provides a harsh test for both brakes and tyres.

While the conversion of the Bahrain Grand Prix to a night race has improved the spectacle for fans, it brings with it challenges for both teams and drivers. The rapidly cooling track affects the balance of the car in ways that are inconsistent with a standard, mid-afternoon event.

The other consequence of racing at night is that it makes FP2, conducted in the early evening, the only practice session from which meaningful set-up data is gathered. FP1 and FP3, both of which take place in the mid-afternoon, are not expected to be fruitful in the search for a good race balance, with the circuit tending to move from oversteer on the hot track, towards understeer as the asphalt cools.

Pirelli comes to Bahrain with its Medium, Soft and Supersoft tyres. Superficially, this is the same combination as used in 2017, though last year no driver raced the Medium compound and the top ten all ran a two-stop strategy. With the tyres generally considered to have moved one-step softer this year, wider strategic choices should be in play.

While the Australian Grand Prix is not generally considered a reliable indicator of form, events in Albert Park two weeks ago did suggest exciting possibilities for the season ahead: while Mercedes appear to have the advantage in qualifying, the gaps between them, Ferrari and Red Bull were fractional on long-run pace. Behind them, an equally compelling battle looks to be developing among McLaren, Renault and Haas. The idiosyncrasies of the Bahrain International Circuit ensure the picture will not become entirely clear this weekend – but the Bahrain Grand Prix will further sharpen the focus.



### BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT

**Length of lap:**

5.412km

**Lap record:**

1:31.447 (Pedro de la Rosa, McLaren, 2005)

**Start line/finish line offset:**

0.246km

**Total number of race laps:**

57

**Total race distance:**

308.238km

**Pitlane speed limits:**

80km/h in practice, qualifying, and the race

### CIRCUIT NOTES

- ▶ Other than routine maintenance no changes of significance have been made.

### DRS ZONE

- ▶ The DRS sectors at the Bahrain International Circuit are broadly similar to last year, with 100m added to the second zone. The detection point of the first zone is 10m before Turn Nine and the activation point is 50m after Turn 10. The second zone's detection point is 108m before Turn 14, with activation occurring 170m after Turn 15.

<b>ROUND 02</b>	<b>BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX</b>	<b>START TIME</b>	18:10 Local - 15:10 GMT
<b>RACE DATE:</b>	08 APR 2018	<b>CIRCUIT LENGTH:</b>	5.412KM
<b>CIRCUIT NAME:</b>	BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT	<b>RACE DISTANCE:</b>	308.238KM
<b>NUMBER OF LAPS:</b>	57	<b>LAP RECORD:</b>	1:31.447 - Pedro De la Rosa [2005]

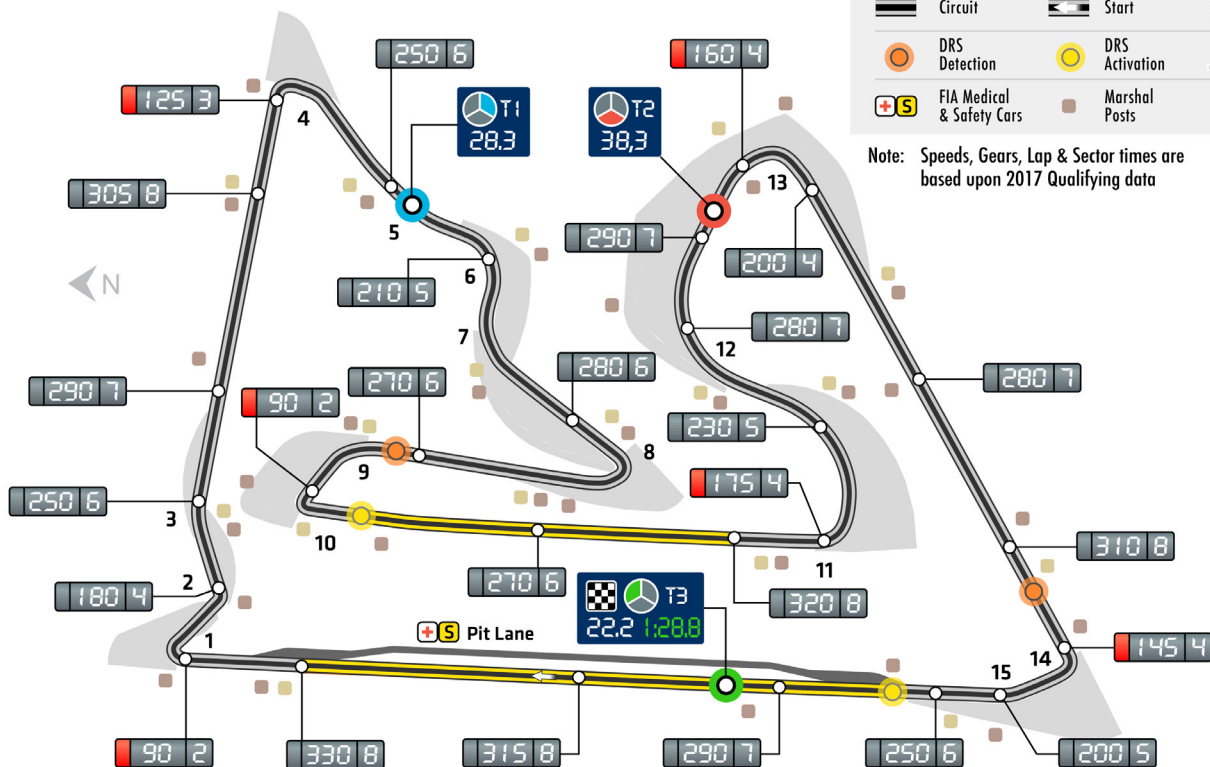
**KEY**

Speed Kmh  
Braking **135 3** Gear

Sector Time **T3 22.2** Timing Sector  
Lap Time **1:28.8**

● Sector 1    ● Sector 2    ● Sector 3  
 Circuit     Start     Finish  
 DRS Detection     DRS Activation     Run-off Areas  
 FIA Medical & Safety Cars     Marshal Posts     Light Panels

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



## FAST FACTS

- ▶ This is the 14th Bahrain Grand Prix. The first event took place in 2004 and it has been held every year since except 2011.
- ▶ Fernando Alonso and Sebastian Vettel are the most successful drivers in Bahrain with three wins each. Alonso won in 2005 and 2006 for Renault, and 2010 for Ferrari; Vettel won the 2012 and 2013 races for Red Bull, adding a third last year for Ferrari. Ferrari are the most successful constructor with five victories, with Michael Schumacher winning the inaugural race in 2004 and Felipe Massa adding back-to-back victories in 2007 and 2008. Lewis Hamilton also has back-to-back victories in Sakhir, winning for Mercedes in 2014 and 2015. The other winners are Jenson Button (2009) and Nico Rosberg (2016).
- ▶ Despite never having won the Bahrain Grand Prix, Kimi Räikkönen has more podium appearances at this race than any other driver. His eight podiums comprise three third places (2005-2007) and five seconds (2008, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016).
- ▶ Nico Hülkenberg and Stoffel Vandoorne both made their F1 debut at this circuit.
- ▶ Hülkenberg raced here for Williams in 2010, a year when the Bahrain Grand Prix was the opening race of the season. Stoffel Vandoorne made his debut for McLaren in 2016 as a late replacement for Fernando Alonso, when the latter was ruled out on medical grounds.
- ▶ Last year in Bahrain Valtteri Bottas took his first pole position. The Finn followed that with three more during the course of 2017. Of the current field, Alonso (2005), Vettel (2010, 2012) and Hamilton (2015, 2016) have also started from pole. Current Williams reserve driver Robert Kubica started from pole position for BMW-Sauber in 2008.
- ▶ Starting from pole hasn't been very useful in Bahrain: only five times has the pole position driver converted the advantage into victory, with Hamilton being the most recent to do so in 2015. The eventual winner, however, has never started from further back than the second row, with both Alonso (2006) and Button winning from P4.
- ▶ Four drivers are making a Bahrain Grand Prix debut this weekend – though all four have raced previously at the Bahrain International Circuit. Sergey Sirotkin and Pierre Gasly both contested all four GP2 Championship races across two events in 2015, with Gasly taking pole position at the November meeting. Charles Leclerc raced here last year at the Formula 2 season opener, finishing third in the Feature race and winning the Sprint. Brendon Hartley made all four of his 2012 GP2 starts at this circuit, with a best result of 10th. He has, however, been a frequent visitor with the FIA World Endurance Championship, appearing for Porsche at the 6 Hours of Bahrain in each of the last four seasons.
- ▶ Sebastian Vettel is due to start his 200th grand prix this weekend. He mirrors the achievement of Alonso and former team-mate Mark Webber who also made their 200th start in Bahrain. Vettel's win in Australia two weeks ago was his 100th visit to the F1 podium. In terms of podiums, the German driver is fourth on the all-time list, with four of the top six in the current field. Schumacher leads the way with 155 podiums, followed by Hamilton (118), Alain Prost (106), Vettel, Alonso (97) and Räikkönen (92).

# RACE STEWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

## DR GERD ENNSER

### **MEMBER OF THE DMSB'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR AUTOMOBILE SPORT, FORMULA ONE AND DTM STEWARD**

Dr Gerd Ennsler has successfully combined his formal education in law with his passion for motor racing. While still active as a racing driver he began helping out with the management of his local motor sport club and since 2006 has been a permanent steward at every round of Germany's DTM championship. Since 2010 he has also been a Formula One steward. Dr Ennsler, who has worked as a judge, a prosecutor and in the legal department of an automotive-industry company, has also acted as a member of the steering committee of German motor sport body, the DMSB, since spring 2010, where he is responsible for automobile sport. In addition, Dr Ennsler is a board member of the South Bavaria Section of ADAC, Germany's biggest auto club.



## PAOLO LONGONI

### **MEMBER OF THE ITALIAN MOTOR SPORT COMMISSION (CSAI); THE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF MILAN**

Paolo Longoni is a steward with nearly 30 years' experience. Milanese Longoni began his stewards' training at his home circuit – Monza – in 1990 and was immediately 'bitten by the bug' of motorsport. While his early stewarding experience was based largely at Monza, since 2006 Longoni has officiating at rounds of the Porsche Supercup, Ferrari Challenge Championship, FIA Historic Championship, ETCC, WTCC, Formula Two and Le Mans Series events. He frequently serves as the national steward at the Italian Grand Prix.



## 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







# FORMULA ONE TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY

**Press conference** 15.00

## FRIDAY

**Practice session 1** 14.00-15.30

**Press conference** 16.00

**Practice session 2** 18.00-19.30

## SATURDAY

**Practice session 3** 15.00-16.00

**Qualifying** 18.00-19.00

Followed by unilateral and press conference

## SUNDAY

**Drivers' Parade** 16.40

**Race** 18.10

Followed by podium 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 interview pen is located in the paddock, behind the FIA garage.

### 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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