



Race Preview

2018 SPANISH GRAND PRIX

11 – 13 May 2018

After a quartet of early flyaway races the 2018 FIA Formula 1 World Championship begins its European season at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, home of the Spanish Grand Prix.

The Barcelona track, the favoured off-season test venue for F1's teams, has always been something of bellwether circuit, with a well-worn maxim stating that if a car is quick around the Montmeló circuit is likely to perform well at any of the calendar's 20 other race venues.

The judgement is based on the circuit's layout, which features a good mix of fast-, medium- and slow-speed corners, as well as swift changes of direction and a long start-finish straight. It's a combination that tests a broad range of car characteristics and after the particular circuit demands of the opening races, taking in temporary tracks and races in cool and high temperatures, Spain's grand prix circuit is perhaps the first time this season we will get a definitive guide to each team's relative strengths.

However, while the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya is perhaps the circuit that offers the largest reserve of historical data for teams to draw upon, this year's event presents a variable no team has yet comes to grips with – in the most literal sense.

A complete resurfacing of the track coupled with unexpectedly harsh weather in pre-season testing provided more questions than answers and should make for interesting tyre use this weekend, with Pirelli offering its Medium, Soft and Supersoft compounds. Williams, in particular, have made aggressive choices, with its drivers, Sergey Sirotkin and Lance Stroll, opting for nine and 10 sets of ultrasoft tyres respectively.

An utterly captivating race in Baku last time out has altered the shape of the Drivers' Championship and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton goes into this weekend at the top of the standings for the first time this year. The 2017 Spanish GP winner now leads close rival Sebastian Vettel by four points, with Kimi Räikkönen a further 18 points back. In the race for the Constructors' crown Ferrari (114 pts) still hold a narrow four-point lead over Mercedes.



CIRCUIT DE BARCELONA-CATALUNYA

Length of lap:

4.655km

Lap record:

1:21.670 (Kimi Räikkönen, Ferrari, 2008)

Start line/finish line offset:

0.126km

Total number of race laps:

66

Total race distance:

307.104km

Pitlane speed limits:

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

CIRCUIT NOTES

- ▶ The entire track has been resurfaced.
- ▶ A 10m wide section of asphalt has been replaced by gravel around the outside of Turn 1.
- ▶ The artificial grass on the exit of Turns 2 and 7 has been removed.
- ▶ The guardrail has been re-aligned to the left of the run-off at Turn 4.
- ▶ New double kerbs have been installed on the exit of Turns 5 and 16 and the artificial grass removed.
- ▶ The run-off areas on the exit of Turn 12 and around the outside of Turn 13 have been increased.

DRS ZONE

- ▶ Two DRS zones will be in use. The first has a detection point 86m before Turn 9 and an activation point 40m after. The second detection point is at the Safety Car line, with activation 157m after Turn 16.

ROUND 05	SPANISH GRAND PRIX	START TIME	15:10 Local - 13:10 GMT
RACE DATE:	13 MAY 2018	CIRCUIT LENGTH:	4.655KM
CIRCUIT NAME:	CIRCUIT DE BARCELONA-CATALUNYA	RACE DISTANCE:	307.104KM
NUMBER OF LAPS:	66	LAP RECORD:	1:21.670 - K Räikkönen [2008]

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

KEY		Speed Km/h	Sector Time	Timing Sector	Lap Time
Braking	140 4	Gear	T3	27.8	1:19.2
●	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 will be the 48th Formula 1 World Championship Spanish Grand Prix and the 28th edition at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya. The circuit first held the race in 1991 and has been the home of the Spanish Grand Prix ever since.
- ▶ Ferrari are the most successful team at the Spanish Grand Prix with a dozen wins, eight of which were scored at the Circuit de Catalunya. The Scuderia's first win in Spain was at the 1954 Pedralbes race courtesy of Mike Hawthorn and its most recent was in 2013 with Fernando Alonso. McLaren is next on the list with eight Spanish GP wins, although only four were scored in Barcelona.
- ▶ Catalonia has a win been scored from beyond the front row of the grid. Michael Schumacher took victory from third place on the grid in 1996, Max Verstappen, scored his maiden grand prix win after starting the 2016 edition from fourth place, while Alonso is the current record having scored his 2013 from fifth place on the starting grid.
- ▶ Four other venues have hosted Spanish GPs. The first event place at Barcelona's Pedralbes street circuit in 1951, with a second race taking place in 1954. After slipping off the schedule, the grand prix returned in the late 1960s, alternating between Madrid's Circuito del Jarama (1968, 1970, 1972, 1974) and Barcelona's Montjuïc (1969, 1971, 1973, 1975). Following the cessation of F1 racing at Montjuïc, Jarama hosted races from 1976-1979 and in 1981, while the Circuito de Jerez featured from 1986 to 1990.
- ▶ Five Spanish Grand Prix winners will line up on the grid this weekend: Kimi Räikkönen (2005, 2008), Fernando Alonso (2006, 2013) Sebastian Vettel (2011), Lewis Hamilton (2014, 2017) and Max Verstappen (2016).
- ▶ Of the current grid, home hero Alonso also takes the honours for most podium finishes in Barcelona, with seven. His first taste of champagne in Spain was in 2003, with second place for Renault. He brought the Anglo-French team two more podiums, in 2005 (P2) and 2006 (P1). In his 2007 he finished third at the wheel of a McLaren. In 2010 and 2012 he was second for Ferrari, before taking his most recent F1 win, again with the Scuderia, in 2013.
- ▶ Michael Schumacher is the most successful driver at the Spanish GP, with six wins (1995-'96, 2001-'04). All the German's victories were scored in Barcelona. A quartet of drivers share second place on the list, with three wins each: Jackie Stewart (1969-'71), Nigel Mansell (1987, 1991-'92) and Alain Prost (1988, 1990, 1993).
- ▶ It's 44 years since Mercedes non-executive director Niki Lauda won for the first time in his F1 career, at the 1974 Spanish Grand Prix at Jarama, driving for Ferrari. The Austrian would score a further 24 victories, the final one arriving with McLaren at the 1985 Dutch GP.
- ▶ Schumacher again leads the way on pole positions at the Spanish GP, with seven – in 1994 and 1995 and then with a straight run from 2000-2004. Hamilton has the most Spanish GP pole positions of a current driver, with three. All three were achieved with Mercedes, in 2014, 2016 and last year.
- ▶ Grid position counts for much here. In only three of the 27 grands prix run to date at the Circuit de Barcelona-

RACE STEWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

TIM MAYER

FIA ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO THE USA, FIA STEWARD, MEMBER OF THE FIA OFF-ROAD COMMISSION

As the son of former McLaren team principal Teddy Mayer, Tim Mayer grew up around motor sport. He organised IndyCar races internationally from 1992-98, aided the construction of several circuits, and produced international TV for multiple series. In 1998 he became CART's Senior VP for Racing Operations. He also became VP of ACCUS, the US ASN. In 2003, Mayer became COO of IMSA, operating multiple series at all levels, and also took on the role of COO and Race Director of the American Le Mans Series. He was elected an independent Director of ACCUS and FIA US Alternate Delegate, responsible for US World Championship events. Tim is also a regular FIA World Endurance Championship steward and a member of the FIA's Off-Road Commission.



ANDREW MALLALIEU

PRESIDENT OF THE BARBADOS MOTORING FEDERATION; FORMULA 1, WRC AND F3 STEWARD

Andrew Mallalieu's 30-year plus involvement in motor sport spans rallying, hill climbs and circuit racing in Barbados and the greater Caribbean region. He is currently President of the Barbados Motoring Federation. Andrew has served as a steward at a wide variety of events including rounds of the FIA World Rally Championship and the FIA European F3 Championship. A Certified Public Accountant and a Chartered Surveyor his non-motorsport activities include ownership of the Terra Caribbean Group where he is the Chief Executive. He has also been an advisor to the Barbados Government on real estate development issues.



DEREK WARWICK

FORMER FORMULA 1 DRIVER AND WORLD SPORTSCAR CHAMPION, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE FIA DRIVERS' COMMISSION

Derek Warwick raced in 146 grands prix from 1981 to 1993, appearing for Toleman, Renault, Brabham, Arrows and Lotus. He scored 71 points and achieved four podium finishes, with two fastest laps. He was World Sportscar Champion in 1992, driving for Peugeot. He also won Le Mans in the same year. He raced Jaguar sportscars in 1986 and 1991 and competed in the British Touring Car Championship between 1995 and 1998, as well as a further appearance at the Le Mans in 1996, driving for the Courage Competition team. Currently Vice-President of the FIA Drivers' Commission, Warwick is a frequent FIA driver steward and is also a past President of the British Racing Drivers' Club.



FORMULA ONE TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Press conference 15.00

FRIDAY

Practice session 1 11.00-12.30

Press conference 13.00

Practice session 2 15.00-16.30

SATURDAY

Practice session 3 12.00-13.00

Qualifying 15.00-16.00

Followed by unilateral and press conference

SUNDAY

Drivers' Parade 13.30

Race 15.10

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 Pen is located in the paddock in front of the FIA garages.

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

