

Friday 29 July 2022

Smolyar on pole in Budapest for MP Motorsport

Alexander Smolyar secured pole position around the Hungaroring, avoiding a hectic conclusion to the session following a late red flag stoppage that wouldn't deny him. Though time remained on the clock following a restart with three minutes to go, Zane Maloney was the closest anyone got to the MP Motorsport driver, ending the session second-fastest 0.126s down. Oliver Bearman was the quickest PREMA Racing driver on the day, securing P3 for the Feature Race.

Trident's Jonny Edgar posted the first competitive time of the session, though the benchmark tumbled as the initial efforts filtered in. Maloney set a 1:33.748 which was quickly beaten by Caio Collet. The MP driver dipped just under a tenth beneath that with a 1:33.630.

The track fell quiet with 10 minutes gone, Collet leading from Isack Hadjar and Victor Martins. Debutant Oliver Goethe climbed up to P6 on his second flying lap for Campos Racing but lost his time for exceeding track limits at Turn 4, dropping him back down to P10.

None of the PREMA drivers had recorded a lap time in the opening half of the session due to deletions because of track limits violations. Purple sectors across the board from Arthur Leclerc put him P1 with a 1:32.912 which teammate Jak Crawford couldn't quite match. Bearman meanwhile managed to go better than both to secure the PREMA 1-2-3, just 0.040s quicker than the Monégasque.

Smolyar drifted his way through his lap, on the very edge wrestling his car around. At Turn 4 he pushed the absolute limits of the track but managed to somehow keep his MP car within bounds by a sliver of his front left tyre. Those efforts weren't wasted, and he secured provisional pole with a 1:32.838 with under 12 minutes left on the clock.

The drivers filtered out onto the circuit once more with eight and a half minutes remaining. Just as the first of the final laps were about to be recorded, a red flag was thrown for the stranded Carlin of Zak O'Sullivan. Leclerc was just two corners away from posting a probable provisional pole time while Van Amersfoort Racing's Reece Ushijima was putting together a monster lap further behind, already a few tenths up through the first sector alone.

Three minutes remained of Qualifying, meaning that there would be time for some but not all drivers to get back around in time for another flying lap. PREMA and VAR opted to hold their drivers while the rest fought for track position ahead on the road, as Championship contenders Hadjar and Martins were the final drivers to leave the pit lane.

CONTINUES



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Crawford emerged from the final corner as the chequered flag flew, leaving his PREMA teammates out of time behind him. Martins and Hadjar also missed the chequered flag but those that went early were finding improvements.

Ushijima leapt up to the front row with a 1:32.803 to go second-fastest but lost his lap due to a track limits violation. Nobody could quite match Smolyar's improved effort of 1:32.740. Maloney ended up second ahead of Bearman. Leclerc and Saucy earned fourth and fifth while Kush Maini was the next-best MP car in P6 ahead of Crawford, Martins, Collet, Hadjar, Colapinto and Goethe, who will line up on reverse grid pole in his first ever FIA Formula 3 race.

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2022 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 6 QUALIFYING PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	TEAM
1	Alexander Smolyar	MP Motorsport
2	Zane Maloney	Trident
3	Oliver Bearman	PREMA Racing
4	Arthur Leclerc	PREMA Racing
5	Grégoire Saucy	ART Grand Prix
6	Kush Maini	MP Motorsport
7	Jak Crawford	PREMA Racing
8	Victor Martins	ART Grand Prix
9	Caio Collet	MP Motorsport
10	Isack Hadjar	Hitech Grand Prix
11	Franco Colapinto	Van Amersfoort Racing
12	Oliver Goethe	Campos Racing
13	Josep María Martí	Campos Racing
14	Roman Stanek	Trident
15	Jonny Edgar	Trident
16	David Vidales	Campos Racing
17	Rafael Villagómez	Van Amersfoort Racing
18	Juan Manuel Correa	ART Grand Prix
19	Reece Ushijima	Van Amersfoort Racing
20	William Alatalo	Jenzer Motorsport
21	Kaylen Frederick	Hitech Grand Prix
22	Zak O'Sullivan	Carlin
23	Ido Cohen	Jenzer Motorsport
24	Christian Mansell	Charouz Racing System
25	Brad Benavides	Carlin
26	Francesco Pizzi	Charouz Racing System
27	Nazim Azman	Hitech Grand Prix
29	Enzo Trulli	Carlin
29	László Tóth	Charouz Racing System
30	Federico Malvestiti	Jenzer Motorsport

CONTINUES



MEDIA RELEASE

Notes to editors

A selection of high-resolution images from this session is now available via our [media platform](#), along with a variety of driver interviews, press conference transcripts and the FIA Formula 3 media kit.

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