

Friday 9 September 2022

Smolyar on pole after dramatic Monza session

Alexander Smolyar claimed pole position for MP Motorsport after a Qualifying session interrupted by a significant Red Flag. Isack Hadjar crashed out of Qualifying midway through the session, ending up 16th in the order.

In the title race, Zane Maloney led the way, qualifying second for Trident ahead of teammate Roman Stanek in P3. Victor Martins, Arthur Leclerc and Oliver Bearman followed nose-to-tail, fourth, fifth and sixth on the grid. Jak Crawford ended the session eighth for PREMA Racing.

With the long straights of Monza comprising most of the lap, drivers were immediately searching for a tow on their outlaps. Martins was in a great position with his two teammates ahead of him on the road but ran deep on his first attempt at Turn 1, taking to the escape road and forcing him to reset for another go.

The title contenders took two of the three top three spots following the first laps, Stanek first ahead of Isack Hadjar in P2. Arthur Leclerc filtered through in seventh after a huge snap of oversteer out of the second Lesmo.

With 10 minutes gone, Stanek lowered the benchmark time to a 1:38.107 ahead of teammates Jonny Edgar and Maloney in a Trident 1-2-3. Leclerc managed traffic in the third sector well enough to go ahead of Hadjar and Bearman, fourth, fifth and sixth respectively. Martins' first lap left him 10th in the order with Crawford following in 11th.

As the third laps filtered through, Hadjar looked set to take the fastest lap with two good sectors. Through Parabolica, he ran wide, picked up the gravel and spun into the barriers. His crash brought out the Red Flags with 15 minutes left of the session.

With half of the session remaining, Qualifying got back underway though there was no real rush to venture out for a lap. Nobody wanted to blink first with the tow so crucial to a fast lap, but it was time to go with eight minutes left of the session. Ciao Collet led the train out of the pit lane for MP Motorsport.

Preparation laps until three minutes to go left the pressure laps right to the very end. Smolyar set a fastest first sector, Martins was quickest in sector two, but it was the MP driver that managed the better lap, setting a 1:37.559 to take pole.

Maloney kept up his impressive Qualifying form to go second with teammate Stanek third. Martins' time was good enough for fourth ahead of Leclerc and Bearman, fifth and sixth for PREMA. William Alatalo popped up to seventh on his last attempt, ahead of eighth-placed Crawford. Juan Manuel Correa and Edgar completed the top 10. Josep Maria Marti is set to start the Sprint Race on the front row with Collet on reverse grid pole.

2022 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 9 QUALIFYING PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	TEAM	TIME
1	Alexander Smolyar	MP Motorsport	1:37.559
2	Zane Maloney	Trident	1:37.606
3	Roman Stanek	Trident	1:37.750
4	Victor Martins	ART Grand Prix	1:37.774
5	Arthur Leclerc	PREMA Racing	1:37.945
6	Oliver Bearman	PREMA Racing	1:37.960
7	William Alatalo	Jenzer Motorsport	1:38.023
8	Jak Crawford	PREMA Racing	1:38.031
9	Juan Manuel Correa	ART Grand Prix	1:38.035
10	Jonny Edgar	Trident	1:38.109
11	Josep María Martí	Campos Racing	1:38.182
12	Caio Collet	MP Motorsport	1:38.224
13	Franco Colapinto	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:38.283
14	Kaylen Frederick	Hitech Grand Prix	1:38.444
15	Grégoire Saucy	ART Grand Prix	1:38.488
16	Isack Hadjar	Hitech Grand Prix	1:38.498
17	Zak O'Sullivan	Carlin	1:38.500
18	David Vidales	Campos Racing	1:38.673
19	Rafael Villagómez	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:38.682
20	Francesco Pizzi	Charouz Racing System	1:38.814
21	Brad Benavides	Carlin	1:38.866
22	Reece Ushijima	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:38.915
23	Hunter Yeany	Campos Racing	1:39.105
24	Ido Cohen	Jenzer Motorsport	1:39.122
25	Enzo Trulli	Carlin	1:39.162
26	Federico Malvestiti	Jenzer Motorsport	1:39.648
27	Nazim Azman	Hitech Grand Prix	1:39.800
29	Kush Maini	MP Motorsport	1:40.008
29	László Tóth	Charouz Racing System	1:40.317
30	Alessandro Famularo	Charouz Racing System	1:40.860

CONTINUES

ROUND 9 POST-QUALIFYING PENALTIES

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Following today's Formula 3 Qualifying session at Monza, three drivers have been penalised.

Juan Manuel Correa has been handed a 10-place grid drop for tomorrow's Sprint Race for failing to respect double yellow flags at Turns 1 and 2 and recording his best lap time. The ART Grand Prix driver improved his position while yellow flags were out for the stranded Campos Racing car of Hunter Yeany. Correa had been set to start from P4 on the grid for the Sprint but will now line up in 22nd following the deletion of the lap time set under yellow flags and the application of the grid penalty.

The ART Grand Prix driver's penalty promotes Franco Colapinto to P12, and the Van Amersfoort Racing driver will now start from reverse grid pole in the Sprint Race.

Francesco Pizzi has also been assigned a 10-place grid penalty for ignoring double yellows at Turns 1 and 2. The Stewards found that he too did not slow sufficiently. The Charouz Racing System driver had qualified 20th but will now start 29th on the grid after having the lap time deleted.

Reece Ushijima is the third driver who has been penalised following Qualifying. The Van Amersfoort Racing driver has received a 10-place grid drop also for failing to slow for double yellow flags at the same part of the track. He has had the lap in question deleted, which was not his fastest of the Qualifying session, but will now start from 30th on the grid for the Sprint having qualified 22nd at Monza.

Brad Benavides is serving his three-place grid drop from the previous round for causing a collision with William Alatalo. The Carlin driver will start the Sprint Race from 23rd on the grid.