

Saturday 3 June 2023

O'Sullivan holds off Browning for Barcelona victory

Zak O'Sullivan remained cool, calm and collected on his way to his second win of the 2023 season in the Barcelona Sprint Race. Overcoming two Safety Car restarts and a rapid Luke Browning behind, the PREMA Racing driver lead every lap from reverse grid pole.

Browning ultimately had to settle for second, securing his first Formula 3 podium despite late pressure from third-placed Leonardo Fornaroli.

AS IT HAPPENED

Reverse pole-sitter O'Sullivan instantly defended the inside line, giving compatriot Browning a slipstream down into Turn 1. Despite that, Browning had to yield to his fellow Williams junior on the exit of Turn 2.

Just behind them, Fornaroli's rapid reactions helped him jump Grégoire Saucy for third. A fast-starting Paul Aron rocketed up from P8 to P5 by the time the Safety Car was deployed at the end of the opening lap after Rodin Carlin's Ido Cohen found the barriers at Turn 9.

Racing resumed on Lap 5 and O'Sullivan bolted away early through Turn 12, allowing him to pull clear from Browning. The #11 and #10 MP Motorsport cars squabbled over eighth, with Franco Colapinto getting through on Mari Boya.

After Qualifying down in P18, Gabriele Minì was on the charge. The Alpine Academy junior was brave on the brakes, diving past Christian Mansell through Turn 7 for 12th.

Out front, O'Sullivan couldn't shake off Browning and on Lap 10, the #16 Hitech Pulse-Eight pounced. The PREMA fended him off twice, as Browning tried a move into Turn 1 on consecutive laps to no avail.

Running in P4, Saucy ran wide out of the final corner, opening the door for Aron to get through. Unable to fight back out of Turn 1, the ART Grand Prix driver was left vulnerable to those behind and lost places to both Sebastián Montoya and Gabriel Bortoleto, dropping to seventh.

Aron and Montoya were next to go side-by-side through Turn 1. The slightest of contact left the Hitech driver with a puncture, forcing him to pit at the end of Lap 15. Dino Beganovic found himself out of the race as he too sustained a puncture, becoming beached the gravel at Turn 10.

CONTINUES

Minì and Mansell's earlier battle reignited on Lap 16, but this time the pair made contact. It sent Mansell spinning off at Turn 2 to bring out a second Safety Car. Minì was later awarded a 10-second time penalty for the collision.

Recreating his earlier restart, O'Sullivan had a chance to breathe as Browning was forced to defend from Fornaroli.

Pulling a 1.6s gap, the PREMA driver brought it home for the victory ahead of Browning and Fornaroli. Bortoleto added more points to his Championship tally in fourth, just in front of Aron, Colapinto and Boya. Minì's penalty promoted Martí to eighth, as Saucy and Taylor Barnard rounded out the top 10 points-scorers.

KEY QUOTE – Zak O'Sullivan, PREMA Racing

"P1 in the Sprint Race! Really good race, quite tricky with Luke behind always with DRS in the first half of the race. I managed to manage the gap, especially towards the end. The late Safety Car wasn't ideal, but I managed to pull a gap and it's great to get my second win of the year."

THE CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

With seven more points on the board, Bortoleto extends his Drivers' Championship lead to 24 points, with the Brazilian on 80 to Minì's 56. The top five remain unchanged, with Saucy sitting third on 49, three and five points clear of PREMA duo Beganovic and Aron.

Trident continue to head the Teams' Standings, now on 139 points. PREMA Racing are 12 points adrift on 127, with Hitech Pulse-Eight firmly in third on 111 points.

UP NEXT

Josep María Martí and Campos Racing will be looking to taste glory at home, as the Spanish racer lines up on pole for Sunday's Feature Race. Lights go out at 09:55 local time.

CONTINUES

2023 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 5 SPRINT RACE PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM
1	Zak O'Sullivan	GBR	PREMA Racing
2	Luke Browning	GBR	Hitech Pulse-Eight
3	Leonardo Fornaroli	ITA	Trident
4	Gabriel Bortoleto	BRA	Trident
5	Paul Aron	EST	PREMA Racing
6	Franco Colapinto	ARG	MP Motorsport
7	Mari Boya	ESP	MP Motorsport
8	Josep María Martí	ESP	Campos Racing
9	Grégoire Saucy	CHE	ART Grand Prix
10	Taylor Barnard	GBR	Jenzer Motorsport
11	Nikita Bedrin	ITA	Jenzer Motorsport
12	Oliver Goethe	DEU	Trident
13	Jonny Edgar	GBR	MP Motorsport
14	Nikola Tsolov	BGR	ART Grand Prix
15	Kaylen Frederick	USA	ART Grand Prix
16	Oliver Gray	GBR	Rodin Carlin
17	Hunter Yeany	USA	Rodin Carlin
18	Caio Collet	BRA	Van Amersfoort Racing
19	Tommy Smith	AUS	Van Amersfoort Racing
20	Hugh Barter	AUS	Campos Racing
21	Gabriele Mini	ITA	Hitech Pulse-Eight
22	Sebastian Montoya	COL	Hitech Pulse-Eight
23	Sophia Floersch	DEU	PHM Racing by Charouz
24	Alejandro García	MEX	Jenzer Motorsport
25	Rafael Villagómez	MEX	Van Amersfoort Racing
26	Piotr Wisnicki	POL	PHM Racing by Charouz
27	Roberto Faria	BRA	PHM Racing by Charouz

NOT CLASSIFIED

DNF	Christian Mansell	GBR	Campos Racing
DNF	Dino Beganovic	SWE	PREMA Racing
DNF	Ido Cohen	ISR	Rodin Carlin

OVERALL FASTEST LAP

Zak O'Sullivan	GBR	PREMA Racing
		1:32.054 (Lap 5)

FASTEST LAP ELIGIBLE FOR POINTS

Zak O'Sullivan	GBR	PREMA Racing
		1:32.054 (Lap 5)

THREE DRIVERS PENALISED FOLLOWING BARCELONA SPRINT RACE

3 June 2023



Three drivers have received time penalties following the conclusion of Round 5's Sprint Race at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya.

Grégoire Saucy has been handed a 10-second time penalty for causing a collision with Dino Beganovic on Lap 15. The Stewards deemed the **ART Grand Prix** driver responsible after his rear wing made slight contact with the PREMA Racing driver's right rear tyre, resulting in a puncture. This demotes the Swiss racer from P9 to P23 in the final classification, promoting Jenzer Motorsport's Nikita Bedrin into the points.

Sebastián Montoya has been awarded a five-second time penalty for failing to follow the Race Director's instructions. The Stewards determined that whilst battling with Paul Aron on Lap 15, the **Hitech Pulse-Eight** left the track at Turn 1 and did not stay to the left of the bollards at the end of the escape road prior to rejoining at Turn 3. The Colombian driver falls from P22 to P26 in the final results.

Rafael Villagómez has also been given a 10-second time penalty for causing a collision with Ido Cohen at the exit of Turn 9. The Stewards found that the **Van Amersfoort Racing** driver's front wing made contact with Cohen's left rear tyre, leaving the Rodin Carlin driver with a puncture. As a result, the Mexican driver drops from P25 to P27 in the final standings.