

Friday 21 July 2023

## **O'Sullivan fires to pole in PREMA Racing front row lockout**

PREMA Racing's Zak O'Sullivan stormed his way to his second FIA Formula 3 pole position and secured his and the Italian squad's first pole position of the 2023 campaign around the Hungaroring.

Dino Beganovic couldn't quite get close enough to his teammate's 1:31.091 and had to settle for second, 0.403s off the Briton's pace. Leonardo Fornaroli led Trident's charge as he secured third.

After a dry and humid Free Practice, conditions changed for Qualifying and the field faced a slippery albeit drying Hungaroring. Keen to get a banker lap in early, Fornaroli set the early pace on the wets with a 1:50.354 ahead of teammate Gabriel Bortoleto.

With a dry line beginning to emerge some drivers opted to gamble on the slicks. Running the medium tyres, Caio Collet went almost five seconds quicker than the Italian, meanwhile Maxwell Esterson found himself facing the wrong way after a spin out of Turn 2.

The Red Flag brought the session to a pause with 22 minutes on the clock. Oliver Gray got caught out around the slippery track, hitting the barriers out of Turn 3, but managed to crawl his way back to the pits.

Once green flag conditions resumed, Goethe became the driver to beat. His 1:37.440 put him over two-tenths clear of ART Grand Prix's Nikola Tsolov, but personal bests continued as Mari Boya, Fornaroli and Bortoleto leaped up into P1 in turn.

Having set the pace in Practice, O'Sullivan set out to do so again, putting the #3 PREMA Racing car out front with a 1:34.150. However, the Briton found himself swiftly demoted as Josep María Martí pipped him by 0.006s at the halfway mark.

As the clock ticked down, so too did the lap times. Hugh Barter went quickest momentarily with a 1:33.784, before Boya, Gabriele Minì and Christian Mansell all found even more margin out front.

O'Sullivan responded, going fastest in all three sectors to lay down a 1:31.091 with four minutes to go, as Beganovic hopped up into second ahead of Fornaroli. As the medium tyres faded away, few could improve, and the Williams junior's time remained untouchable.

Franco Colapinto put MP Motorsport inside the top four ahead of Oliver Goethe, who ended the session fifth. Paul Aron ensured that all three PREMA Racing cars will line up for Sunday's Feature Race inside the top six, ahead of Tsolov in seventh and MP Motorsport's Jonny Edgar in eighth.



# MEDIA RELEASE

A mistake for Bortoleto on his penultimate attempt saw the Brazilian go wide across the run-off at Turn 4 and into Beganovic's path. A slight improvement on his final run moved him up to ninth ahead of Mansell, Jenzer Motorsport's Nikita Bedrin and Minì.

Minì will be looking to convert Saturday's Sprint Race reserve grid pole into victory for Hitech Pulse-Eight when the lights go out at 9:50 local time.

**CONTINUES**

## 2023 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 8 QUALIFYING PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	LAPTIME
1	Zak O’Sullivan	GBR	PREMA Racing	1:31.091
2	Dino Beganovic	SWE	PREMA Racing	1:31.494
3	Leonardo Fornaroli	ITA	Trident	1:31.597
4	Franco Colapinto	ARG	MP Motorsport	1:31.626
5	Oliver Goethe	DEU	Trident	1:31.706
6	Paul Aron	EST	PREMA Racing	1:31.744
7	Nikola Tsolov	BGR	ART Grand Prix	1:31.809
8	Jonny Edgar	GBR	MP Motorsport	1:31.857
9	Gabriel Bortoleto	BRA	Trident	1:31.876
10	Christian Mansell	GBR	Campos Racing	1:31.880
11	Nikita Bedrin	ITA	Jenzer Motorsport	1:32.121
12	Gabriele Mini	ITA	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:32.163
13	Josep María Martí	ESP	Campos Racing	1:32.173
14	Grégoire Saucy	CHE	ART Grand Prix	1:32.182
15	Mari Boya	ESP	MP Motorsport	1:32.187
16	Kaylen Frederick	USA	ART Grand Prix	1:32.268
17	Taylor Barnard	GBR	Jenzer Motorsport	1:32.315
18	Luke Browning	GBR	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:32.325
19	Caio Collet	BRA	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:32.463
20	Rafael Villagómez	MEX	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:32.724
21	Sebastian Montoya	COL	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:32.778
22	Hugh Barter	AUS	Campos Racing	1:32.905
23	Ido Cohen	ISR	Rodin Carlin	1:33.168
24	Tommy Smith	AUS	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:33.594
25	Maxwell Esterton	USA	Rodin Carlin	1:33.897
26	Alejandro García	MEX	Jenzer Motorsport	1:34.415
27	Woohyun Shin	KOR	PHM Racing by Charouz	1:34.523
28	Sophia Floersch	DEU	PHM Racing by Charouz	1:34.766
29	Roberto Faria	BRA	PHM Racing by Charouz	1:34.967
<b>NOT CLASSIFIED - 107%</b>				
	Oliver Gray	GBR	Rodin Carlin	2:07.975

**ENDS**

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