

Friday 30 June 2023

Championship leader Bortoleto quickest in Spielberg

Gabriel Bortoleto hit the ground running in Spielberg, setting the track record with a 1:19.410 to top Free Practice for Trident. The Brazilian was 0.148s quicker than Jenzer Motorsport's Taylor Barnard, while Gabriele Minì left it late to take third for Hitech Pulse-Eight.

Once the tyre preparation laps were complete, Paul Aron set the initial benchmark to beat with a 1:21.998 on his first effort. The Estonian's 1:21.205 was three-tenths quicker than PREMA Racing teammate Dino Beganovic, who had a heart-in-mouth moment shortly after. The Swede had fast reactions to keep his car pointing the right way following a huge snap of oversteer that sent him wide at the penultimate corner on his next attempt.

Luke Browning was next to go to the top as the times continued to fall. The Hitech Pulse-Eight driver's 1:21.056 was just 0.027s quicker than Caio Collet in P2, while Grégoire Saucy filtered into third with just under half an hour remaining.

Championship leader Bortoleto assumed the top spot with 26 minutes to go, becoming the first driver into the 1:20s with a 1:20.929.

With just over 16 minutes remaining, the Red Flags were out after Sebastián Montoya beached his #14 Hitech Pulse-Eight in the gravel trap on the outside of Turn 7. The session resumed with 12 minutes left on the clock and everyone returned to the track on soft Pirelli tyres having run their carry-over hard tyres earlier on.

ART Grand Prix's Saucy was first in the queue with prime track position and set a 1:20.306 for the rest to beat. Franco Colapinto and then Collet were able to do so, the Brazilian dipping into the 1:19s with less than five minutes to go.

Aron, Colapinto and Collet all improved on their next laps, but it was Bortoleto that went quickest, setting a 1:19.410 to take the top spot. Taylor Barnard was one of the late improvers as he moved his Jenzer Motorsport #27 up to second, while Minì went third-fastest in the final seconds of the session, 0.253s down on the top time.

Collet made a promising start to the weekend for Van Amersfoort Racing, finishing Practice fourth. He was ahead of Colapinto, Browning, Aron, Josep María Martí, Beganovic and Saucy, with the Swiss rounding out the top 10.

Qualifying is set to get underway at 15:00 local time.

CONTINUES

2023 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 6 FREE PRACTICE PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	LAPTIME
1	Gabriel Bortoleto	BRA	Trident	1:19.410
2	Taylor Barnard	GBR	Jenzer Motorsport	1:19.558
3	Gabriele Minì	ITA	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:19.663
4	Caio Collet	BRA	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:19.683
5	Franco Colapinto	ARG	MP Motorsport	1:19.725
6	Luke Browning	GBR	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:19.763
7	Paul Aron	EST	PREMA Racing	1:19.838
8	Dino Beganovic	SWE	PREMA Racing	1:19.917
9	Grégoire Saucy	CHE	ART Grand Prix	1:19.996
10	Oliver Goethe	DEU	Trident	1:20.067
11	Josep María Martí	ESP	Campos Racing	1:20.071
12	Zak O'Sullivan	GBR	PREMA Racing	1:20.154
13	Leonardo Fornaroli	ITA	Trident	1:20.163
14	Nikita Bedrin	ITA	Jenzer Motorsport	1:20.182
15	Christian Mansell	GBR	Campos Racing	1:20.226
16	Jonny Edgar	GBR	MP Motorsport	1:20.300
17	Nikola Tselov	BGR	ART Grand Prix	1:20.305
18	Mari Boya	ESP	MP Motorsport	1:20.444
19	Kaylen Frederick	USA	ART Grand Prix	1:20.573
20	Hugh Barter	AUS	Campos Racing	1:20.634
21	Oliver Gray	GBR	Rodin Carlin	1:20.806
22	Sophia Floersch	DEU	PHM Racing by Charouz	1:21.027
23	Rafael Villagómez	MEX	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:21.049
24	Alejandro García	MEX	Jenzer Motorsport	1:21.057
25	Sebastian Montoya	COL	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:21.105
26	McKenzy Cresswell	GBR	PHM Racing by Charouz	1:21.105
27	Tommy Smith	AUS	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:21.172
28	Hunter Yeany	USA	Rodin Carlin	1:21.248
29	Ido Cohen	ISR	Rodin Carlin	1:21.450
30	Roberto Faria	BRA	PHM Racing by Charouz	1:22.578

ENDS

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SEVERAL DRIVERS LOSE FASTEST LAP AFTER FREE PRACTICE IN SPIELBERG



Following the conclusion of Free Practice in Spielberg, multiple drivers were found to have exceeded track limits on their fastest laps during the session.

Gabriele Minì, Franco Colapinto, Luke Browning, Dino Beganovic, Josep María Martí, Zak O'Sullivan, Leonardo Fornaroli, Jonny Edgar, Mari Boya, Kaylen Frederick, Hugh Barter, Ido Cohen and Roberto Faria have all lost their fastest times for various track limits violations.

For an updated classification for the Spielberg Free Practice session, [click here](#).