

Friday 30 August, 2024

Fornaroli earns pole for Monza finale

Leonardo Fornaroli took his third Pole Position in Formula 3 and a crucial one in the title battle. The Trident driver finished up as the fastest in Group A, earning him the prime spot on the grid ahead of MP Motorsport's Alex Dunne, who topped Group B.

Closest rival in the Championship Gabriele Minì will be close company on the grid, with the PREMA Racing driver winding up third, while Luke Browning, Arvid Lindblad, Dino Beganovic and Christian Mansell each missed out on a spot in the top seven places of the grid.

GROUP A

The even-numbered cars lined up to get on track first, including the top three in the Drivers' Championship.

There was just one time on the board with just over five minutes to go, though Max Esterson's 2:10.419 was not a push lap as everyone began to play for track position.

Contact between Laurens van Hoepen and Kacper Sztuka out of Lesmo 1 left debris on the track and both with damage, leading to a Red Flag. Both recovered to the pitlane but were left out of the running as a result of the incident.

The first segment resumed with five minutes to go and everyone else was straight back out onto circuit.

Esterson headed the queue without a tow and recorded the first proper lap to beat with a 1:40.558 but that was beaten immediately.

Luke Browning went quicker but his time was bettered by Mari Boya and Joshua Dufek, with the latter taking provisional top spot with a 1:38.832. Championship leader Leonardo Fornaroli wound up seventh on his first attempt, seven-tenths down on the time to beat.

The Italian reset and on his second and final effort, he recorded a 1:38.287 to go quickest of all while title rival Gabriele Minì moved himself up to second at the chequered flag ahead of the other Trident of Santiago Ramos in P3.

Having caught Esterson ahead before he could complete his second lap, Browning backed off and had time for one last attempt but could only manage seventh in the group.

GROUP B

The odd-numbered half of the grid followed suit in waiting before getting out on track for their first attempts.

ART Grand Prix were the first to blink and sent Nikola Tsolov and Christian Mansell out in front, with the rest of the pack trailing the pair out of the pitlane.

Mansell had overtaken his teammate but then backed off in hopes of gaining a tow as the clock ticked to three minutes remaining. With nobody obliging, the Australian headed up the train for the first attempts but backed off before he completed the lap as others followed suit.

Martinius Stenshorne wasn't one of them though and recorded the first time to beat on a 1:39.273. That was beaten by fellow McLaren Driver Development talent Alex Dunne, who went provisionally quickest in Group B with a 1:38.818.

Everyone had time for one final attempt, but nobody could beat the MP driver's effort, though no one was close to Fornaroli's time from Group A.

Sami Meguetounif wound up second in Group B with Sebastián Montoya third for Campos Racing.

With the results aggregated together, Fornaroli will line up on Pole for Sunday's Feature Race ahead of Dunne on the front row in P2.

Minì will go from third with Meguetounif in P4 on the second row alongside him. Santiago Ramos rounds out the top five, while Tim Tramnitz will go from reverse grid pole in the Sprint Race on Saturday.

The final Sprint Race of the season is set to get underway on Saturday morning at 09:30 local time.

CONTINUES

2024 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 10 QUALIFYING GROUP A PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	LAPTIME
1	Leonardo Fornaroli	ITA	Trident	1:38.172
2	Gabriele Mini	ITA	PREMA Racing	1:38.309
3	Santiago Ramos	MEX	Trident	1:38.471
4	Joshua Dufek	AUT	AIX Racing	1:38.619
5	Mari Boya	ESP	Campos Racing	1:38.687
6	Tasanapol Inthraphuvasak	THA	AIX Racing	1:38.841
7	Luke Browning	GBR	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:38.863
8	Piotr Wisnicki	POL	Rodin Motorsport	1:39.091
9	Noel Leon	MEX	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:39.267
10	Max Esterson	USA	Jenzer Motorsport	1:39.411
11	Cian Shields	GBR	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:39.436
12	Noah Strømsted	DNK	Campos Racing	1:39.462
13	Tommy Smith	AUS	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:39.574
NOT CLASSIFIED				
DNF	Kacper Sztuka	POL	MP Motorsport	
DNF	Laurens van Hoepen	NLD	ART Grand Prix	

CONTINUES

2024 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 10 QUALIFYING GROUP B PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	LAPTIME
1	Alexander Dunne	IRL	MP Motorsport	1:38.818
2	Sami Meguetounif	FRA	Trident	1:38.860
3	Sebastian Montoya	COL	Campos Racing	1:38.899
4	Christian Mansell	AUS	ART Grand Prix	1:38.905
5	Dino Beganovic	SWE	PREMA Racing	1:38.956
6	Tim Tramnitz	DEU	MP Motorsport	1:38.959
7	Joseph Loake	GBR	Rodin Motorsport	1:39.020
8	Nikola Tsolov	BUL	ART Grand Prix	1:39.129
9	Arvid Lindblad	GBR	PREMA Racing	1:39.219
10	Martinius Stenshorne	NOR	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:39.273
11	Callum Voisin	GBR	Rodin Motorsport	1:39.294
12	Nikita Bedrin	ITA	AIX Racing	1:39.321
13	Charlie Wurz	AUT	Jenzer Motorsport	1:39.409
14	Sophia Floersch	DEU	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:39.582
		NOT CLASSIFIED		1:39.550
DNF	Matias Zagazeta	PEU	Jenzer Motorsport	

ENDS

FORNAROLI, MINÌ, BROWNING AND MORE PENALISED FOLLOWING MONZA QUALIFYING

30 August 2024



Following the conclusion of FIA Formula 3 Qualifying at Monza, several drivers have been handed grid penalties.

11 drivers from Group A have received a grid drop of four positions for the same infringement, relating to driving unnecessarily slowly between Turns 6 and 7.

Trident's Leonardo Fornaroli, PREMA Racing's Gabriele Minì, AIX Racing's Joshua Dufek and Tasanapol Inthraphuvasak, Campos Racing's Mari Boya and Noah Stromsted, Hitech Pulse-Eight's Luke Browning as well as Rodin Motorsport's Piotr Wisnicki, Van Amersfoort Racing's Noel León and Tommy Smith, and Jenzer Motorsport's Max Esterson have all been awarded a four-place grid drop.

Following a post-session hearing with the Stewards and having heard from all the drivers involved barring the driver of Car 30, it was determined that all of the aforementioned drivers had decided to slow in an effort to fall behind another car to gain a tow, and that directly led to the collision

between Cars 24 and 8 of Laurens van Hoepen and Kacper Sztuka.

The Stewards acknowledged that, while drivers may need to slow at times to avoid impeding another driver, it was determined that it was unnecessary for the drivers to have slowed to that extent.

As a result, each of them has been assigned the same four-place penalty that will be applied at the next race in which each of them competes.

Christian Mansell has also received a three-place grid penalty. The ART Grand Prix driver was judged to have impeded Car 1 of Dino Beganovic at Turn 11 during the Group B Qualifying session.

After examining available video evidence and hearing from the drivers and team representatives, the Stewards determined that Car 1 was unnecessarily impeded by the ART driver.

As a result, Mansell has been awarded a three-place grid penalty that he will serve at the next race in which he competes.

Nikola Tsolov has also received a three-place grid penalty. The ART driver was found to have impeded Car 21, Van Amersfoort Racing's Sophia Floersch.

After hearing from both drivers along with their team representatives as well as examining video evidence, the Stewards determined that Tsolov had unnecessarily impeded Car 21 between Turns 10 and 11.

Tsolov will also serve his three-place penalty at the next race in which he competes.

MP Motorsport driver Kacper Sztuka has also been handed a five-place grid penalty for causing a collision with Laurens van Hoepen during Qualifying.

The Stewards examined video evidence and spoke to both drivers and their Team Representatives before determining that Sztuka had slowed down significantly on the racing line, surprising van Hoepen, and causing the collision between the pair.

As a result, Sztuka has been handed a five-place grid drop that he will serve at the next race in which he competes.