



PRESS RELEASE

13.09.2026

Taponen wins as Ugochukwu seals 2026 Drivers' title



Tuukka Taponen was victorious in Madrid for MP Motorsport, winning the second Feature Race of the weekend as Ugo Ugochukwu secured the 2026 Drivers' Championship in P2 to become the first F3 Champion from the United States. The Finn led every lap en route to the top step of the podium, with Ugochukwu remaining close and adding another podium to his record to seal the title. Rodin Motorsport's Pedro Clerot rounded out the podium in third position.

AS IT HAPPENED

Taponen covered off Ugochukwu immediately at Turn 1 and he

retained the lead over the Campos Racing driver. Freddie Slater dropped a place to Yevan David on the run to Turn 5 to make his road to the title tougher. With DRS enabled on Lap 3, David looked to make a move on Enzo Deligny at Turn 5 but couldn't get through, offering a brief chance for Slater to look at the AIX Racing driver into Turn 7, ultimately falling back into line in ninth.

Slater was on the attack on Lap 5, and he rounded the Sri Lankan into Turn 2 to take eighth. Up ahead, Ugochuwku was content to sit within a second of the race leader and keep Clerot behind in third.

Lap 10 and Slater was onto the back of Deligny and tried an audacious look into Turn 7, but the Van Amersfoort Racing driver was able to remain ahead. With the laps ticking by, Slater was looking to get creative and shaped for a move into Turn 13, but once again found the door shut.

Taito Kato was looking to round out his season with another podium, and was close to Clerot in the battle for third. A big lock-up into Turn 17 almost left the Japanese driver sailing into the back of the Rodin, but he managed to avoid a collision and continued in fourth. David was relegated to 10th after a big slide at Turn 18 allowed Ernesto Rivera to capitalise and take ninth in the Campos on Lap 16.

Hiyu Yamakoshi came to a halt with three laps remaining, bringing out the Safety Car. The marshals were able to recover the Van Amersfoort Racing car in time to leave us with a one-lap shootout for the victory and the '26 title. Taponen got a good restart and led the pack onto the final lap with a comfortable lead over Ugochuwku, who had Clerot for close company.

Despite the late drama, Taponen had control of the race and secured his maiden win in FIA Formula 3 in the final race of the year. Ugochukwu crossed the line in P2 to claim the Drivers' Championship and complete his comeback in the title race, while Clerot completed the podium in third.

Kato was fourth ahead of Mattia Colnaghi, Alessandro Giusti, Deligny and Slater, who finished eighth. Rivera and David rounded out the final top 10 of the season.

KEY QUOTE – Ugo Ugochukwu, Campos Racing

"We did it, FIA F3 Champions! Super, super happy and I can't thank the team enough for an amazing year. Today was not a bad race with P2. We knew we just had to keep it clean to clinch the title, and that's what we did. No mistakes, brought it home and super pleased."

THE CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

Ugo Ugochukwu is the 2026 FIA Formula 3 Drivers' Champion, finishing on 159 points. Freddie Slater winds up second in the Standings on 145 points. Tuukka Taponen's win lifts the Finn up to third in the Championship ahead of Taito Kato in fourth, 109 points to 105. Théophile Nael finishes fifth on countback ahead of Pedro Clerot on 88 points each, and the top five drivers that graduate up to FIA Formula 2 in 2027 will receive prize money ahead of the next step in their careers.

Campos Racing are 2026 Teams' Champions already, with the team's final total standing at 334 points. TRIDENT finish second on 217, while MP Motorsport jump up to third and 208 points, ahead of ART Grand Prix in fourth on 189. Van Amersfoort Racing complete the top five with 168 points.

UP NEXT

We have reached the end of the 2026 FIA Formula 3 campaign. Keep up to date with the latest news, interviews and events via the official website and social media channels.



FIA Formula 3 - Madrid - Provisional Classification - Feature Race

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	
1	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	MP Motorsport	
2	Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	Campos Racing	
3	Pedro Clerot	BRA	Rodin Motorsport	
4	Taito Kato	JPN	ART Grand Prix	
5	Mattia Colnaghi	ITA	MP Motorsport	
6	Alessandro Giusti	FRA	MP Motorsport	
7	Enzo Deligny	FRA	Van Amersfoort Racing	
8	Freddie Slater	GBR	TRIDENT	
9	Ernesto Rivera	MEX	Campos Racing	
10	Yevan David	LKA	AIX Racing	
11	Brando Badoer	ITA	Rodin Motorsport	
12	Theophile Nael	FRA	Campos Racing	
13	Alex Powell	JAM	PREMA Racing	
14	Fionn Mclaughlin	IRL	Hitech	
15	Jin Nakamura	JPN	Hitech	
16	James Wharton	AUS	PREMA Racing	
17	Bruno Del Pino	ESP	Van Amersfoort Racing	
18	Matteo De Palo	ITA	TRIDENT	
19	Kanato Le	SGP	ART Grand Prix	
20	Nicola Lacorte	ITA	DAMS Lucas Oil	
21	Noah Stromsted	DNK	TRIDENT	
22	Maciej Gladysz	POL	ART Grand Prix	

23		Fernando Barrichello		BRA		AIX Racing	
24		Niccolo Maccagnani		ITA		Rodin Motorsport	
25		Woohyun Shin		KOR		Hitech	
26		Jose Garfias		MEX		PREMA Racing	
27		N. Bhirombhakdi		THA		DAMS Lucas Oil	

NOT CLASSIFIED

DNF		Hiyu Yamakoshi		JPN		Van Amersfoort Racing	
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OVERALL FASTEST LAP

	Nicola Lacorte		ITA		DAMS Lucas Oil	
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1:51.773

OVERALL FASTEST LAP FOR POINTS

	Tuukka Taponen		FIN		MP Motorsport	
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1:52.147

ENDS

About FIA Formula 3:

2019 marked the launch of the FIA Formula 3 Championship. An ambitious new project from the FIA and the former GP3 Series Organisation to form an official third rung of the Road to F1 ladder. Combining GP3 and European F3, the idea was to create a defined entry point for young and ambitious drivers to join the Formula 1 circus, and to give them the chance to take the path to join their heroes in the main paddock. With some of the world's best racing teams on board, and the hottest junior motor racing talent from across the globe filling their race seats, Formula 3 promised to be one of the most exciting championships in motorsport.

Designed as the perfect training ground for both F2, and ultimately, F1, our young drivers must showcase their skills both in speed and in tyre management, just like they will have to do when they move up the motorsport ladder. Notable F3 alumni include 2020 Champion Oscar Piastri, F1 rookie Arvid Lindblad and of course the F1 rookie class of 2024 that included F3 Champion Gabriel Bortoleto, Oliver Bearman, Franco Colapinto and Isack Hadjar. The Championship benefits from the FIA's excellence in the scrutineering of cars and the

overseeing and running of events, while FOM's (Formula One Management) unparalleled expertise in broadcasting and marketing ensures that the Championship has a truly global reach and appeal. 2026 promises to be a thrilling spectacle from start to finish.

Email: Media@FIAFormula3.com

X: [@Formula3](#)