



PRESS RELEASE

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Ugo Ugochukwu leads the way in opening Melbourne session



Ugo Ugochukwu set the pace in the opening session of the Melbourne weekend, the Campos Racing driver completing a 1:34.607 to top the times in Free Practice.

Rodin Motorsport's Brando Badoer was second to Ugochukwu, 0.427s behind, with TRIDENT's Noah Stromsted in third.

Bruno del Pino led the way early on for Van Amersfoort Racing with a 1:36.589 before PREMA Racing's Louis Sharp eclipsed that by 0.511s.

As track conditions improved, several drivers took to the top though, with Stromsted, José Garfias, Brad Benavides and Alessandro Giusti all going to P1, until Ugochukwu, took over on a 1:34.859.

Entering the final 20 minutes of the session, the Campos Racing driver continued to lead the way ahead of Stromsted, who had to closed to within 0.197s, while teammate Théophile Nael went to third.

Ugochukwu then lowered the benchmark time on his next flying lap, completing a 1:34.607 to lead the field by nearly four-and-a-half tenths.

After a brief stint in the pitlane, the drivers returned to the track for the final 10 minutes, with Rodin's Badoer jumping up to P2 and Pedro Clerot going to seventh.

With just over five minutes left to go, the Red Flags were waved with Mattia Colnaghi having stopped on track at Turn 1.

There was not enough time to restart to the session, leaving Ugochukwu on top by 0.429s ahead of Badoer, Stromsted, Nael and Alessandro Giusti. Benavides was sixth ahead of Clerot, Nicola Lacorte, Christian Ho and Sharp.

The drivers will be out on track at Albert Park for Qualifying later today at 14:00 local time.

2026 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 1 PRACTICE PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	LAPTIME
1	Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	Campos Racing	1:34.607
2	Brando Badoer	ITA	Rodin Motorsport	1:35.034
3	Noah Stromsted	DEN	TRIDENT	1:35.056
4	Theophile Nael	FRA	Campos Racing	1:35.070
5	Alessandro Giusti	FRA	MP Motorsport	1:35.078
6	Brad Benavides	USA	AIX Racing	1:35.131
7	Pedro Clerot	BRA	Rodin Motorsport	1:35.243

8	Nicola Lacorte	ITA	DAMS Lucas Oil	1:35.244
9	Christian Ho	SGP	Rodin Motorsport	1:35.262
10	Louis Sharp	NZL	PREMA Racing	1:35.335
11	Bruno Del Pino	ESP	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:35.359
12	Taito Kato	JPN	ART Grand Prix	1:35.387
13	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	MP Motorsport	1:35.454
14	Freddie Slater	GBR	TRIDENT	1:35.456
15	Mattia Colnaghi	ARG	MP Motorsport	1:35.495
16	Matteo De Palo	ITA	TRIDENT	1:35.586
17	James Wharton	AUS	PREMA Racing	1:35.659
18	Jin Nakamura	JPN	Hitech	1:35.687
19	Maciej Gladysz	POL	ART Grand Prix	1:35.692
20	Jose Garfias	MEX	PREMA Racing	1:35.715
21	Enzo Deligny	FRA	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:35.727
22	Gerrard Xie	CHN	DAMS Lucas Oil	1:35.821
23	Kanato Le	JPN	ART Grand Prix	1:35.977
24	Fionn Mclaughlin	IRL	Hitech	1:36.096
25	Hiyu Yamakoshi	JPN	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:36.239
26	Yevan David	SRI	AIX Racing	1:36.317
27	Woohyun Shin	KOR	Hitech	1:36.870
28	Patrick Heuzenroeder	AUS	Campos Racing	1:37.046
29	Nandhavud Bhirombhakdi	THA	DAMS Lucas Oil	1:37.142
30	Fernando Barrichello	BRA	AIX Racing	1:37.210

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.

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