

ROUND 1 **MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA**



ALL TIMES LOCAL GMT +11

FRIDAY
06 MARCH

08:50
Free Practice
45 min.

14:00
Qualifying Session
30 min.

15:30
Press Conference

SATURDAY
07 MARCH

11:15
Sprint Race

20 LAPS >> 105.560 KM
40 min. +1 Lap

Grid set by reversing Top 12 of Qualifying Results

15:30
Press Conference

SUNDAY
08 MARCH

08:50
Feature Race

23 LAPS >> 121.394 KM
45 min. +1 Lap

Grid set by Qualifying Results

10:05
Press Conference

WHAT TO EXPECT

The 2026 FIA Formula 3 season is upon us with the paddock having made the trip to Melbourne for Round 1 around the Albert Park street circuit.

30 drivers and their teams will be eyeing a strong first race weekend of the year, as the battle to be crowned champions begins.

So before we get going in Australia here is everything you need to know...

For many drivers, team members and fans, Melbourne is the race weekend they look forward to the most, and there will be a lot of anticipation to

get out on track for Free Practice on Friday.

That first 45-minute session starts at 08:50 local time, kicking off the day's action before Qualifying later at 14:00 local time.

That pole position shootout will set the grid for both races, the first being Saturday's Sprint which is scheduled to start at 11:15 local time.

Lights out for the first Feature Race of the season is set for 08:50 local time on Sunday morning. Who will conquer the streets of Melbourne and claim an early statement victory?

FROM THE GRID

JAMES WHARTON
PREMA Racing



"I think the best place to overtake is probably Turn 9 into the fast chicane or Turn 12, which is another DRS zone, because we have four this weekend.

"The toughest part of the weekend though is probably the lack of driving in Free Practice. It's a street track where the evolution is massive. So going from the first lap of Free Practice to Qualifying there is a massive step with the track evolution. So to be on the limit is very, very difficult.

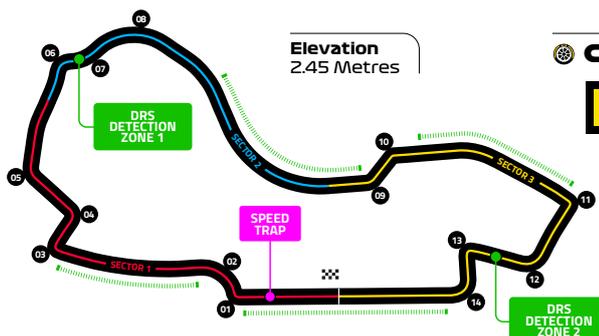
"Melbourne is my home and my whole family and friends will be there, and it just brings back a lot of memories of when I first started racing. But at the same time, it's a race weekend where I probably put the most pressure on myself to do a good job. I want to do a good job in front of the home crowd and my mum and dad."

TRACK DATAS Albert Park Grand Prix Circuit **5.278 KM** Start/Finish Offset - 0.000 km

LAP RECORD
1:33.025 (204.254 KM/H)
Gabriel Bortoleto (Trident) in 2023

2025 POLE POSITION
1:34.999 (200.010 KM/H)
Rafael Câmara (TRIDENT)

MAXIMUM SPEED INTERMEDIATE 2
292.5 KM/H
Josep Maria Martí (Campos Racing) in 2023



Elevation
2.45 Metres

COMPOUND ALLOCATION



TYRE TALK

RACE STRATEGY

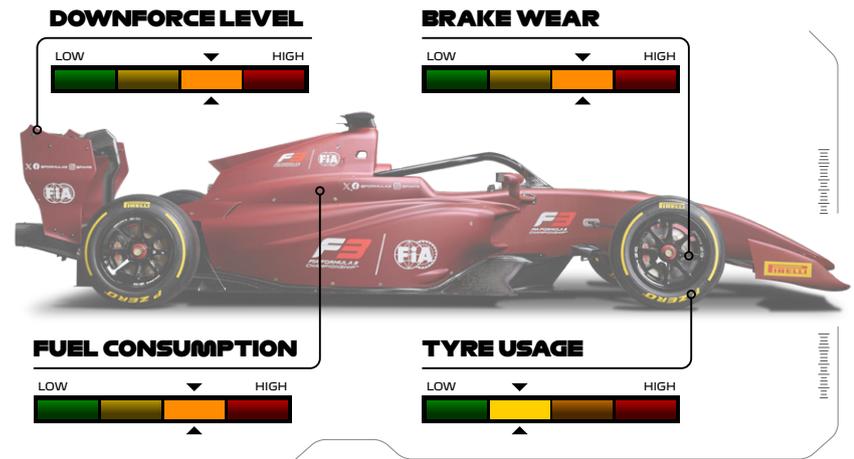
The Medium compound has been confirmed for the opening round of the Formula 3 season. Drivers will tackle the Melbourne street circuit using the middle compound in Pirelli's range, and there are several factors to consider.

The tyres may be prone to graining, a common phenomenon at this venue in Australia, which could require careful management in the closing laps to maintain consistent performance levels. Drivers will also need to keep overheating under control on the very smooth surface, which is largely made up of public roads that are usually open to traffic.

Drivers must avoid pushing the tyres to their limits too early in the race, as this could compromise the final stages of the competition, particularly if temperatures are higher than last year, when the weekend was heavily affected by rain.



TECH INFO



Pierre-Alain MICHOT

FIA Formula 3 Technical Director

"It is good to be back in Melbourne for the first round of the 2026 season. A year ago we came to Australia with brand new cars, and now one year later the teams will know these cars a lot better than they did at that point, which should make this weekend, and also the season, even more competitive."

"Melbourne is a challenging street circuit, where the teams will have to find the right balance between maximising

their top speeds on the four DRS zones, while also recognising the need for downforce with many medium to high speed sections.

"How the teams plan for Qualifying this year will also be interesting. Last year a few teams used a different strategy to get their drivers to set flying laps on an emptier track. TRIDENT did this and sealed a front row start for Sunday. Let us see what the teams do this weekend."

FAST FACTS

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There is a 66% win-rate in the Feature Race from pole position – with Gabriel Bortoleto having won from P1 in 2023 and Rafael Câmara doing the same in 2025.

This year's grid is made up of 13 returning drivers and 17 rookies.

Noah Strømsted is the highest ranked of the returning drivers from 2025 having finished sixth in the Standings.



On Formula 3's previous three visits for Melbourne, TRIDENT have taken pole position – with Bortoleto in 2023, Leonardo Fornaroli in 2024 and Câmara in 2025.

There are four DRS zones around the Albert Park circuit, the most of a single track on the F3 calendar.



2026 ENTRY LIST

ON-BOARD
CAMERAS

	1  Théophile NAËL FRA 18 y/o	 NAE
	2  Ugo UGOCHUKWU USA 18 y/o	 UGO
	3  Patrick HEUZENROEDER HEU AUS 20 y/o ROOKIE	 HEU
	4  Noah STRØMSTED STR DEN 18 y/o	 STR
	5  Freddie SLATER GBR 17 y/o ROOKIE	 SLA
	6  Matteo DE PALO ITA 18 y/o ROOKIE	 DEP
	7  Mattia COLNAGHI COL ARG 17 y/o ROOKIE	 COL
	8  Tuukka TAPONEN TAP FIN 19 y/o	 TAP
	9  Alessandro GIUSTI GIU FRA 19 y/o	 GIU
	10  Taito KATO KAT JPN 18 y/o ROOKIE	 KAT
	11  Maciej GŁADYSZ GLA POL 27 y/o ROOKIE	 GLA
	12  Kanato LE KLE JPN 18 y/o ROOKIE	 KLE
	14  Hiyu YAMAKOSHI YAM JPN 19 y/o ROOKIE	 YAM
	15  Enzo DELIGNY EDE FRA 17 y/o ROOKIE	 EDE
	16  Bruno DEL PINO BDE ESP 19 y/o	 BDE
	17  Pedro CLEROT CLE BRA 19 y/o ROOKIE	 CLE
	18  Brando BADOER BAD ITA 19 y/o	 BAD
	19  Christian HO CHO SGP 19 y/o	 CHO
	20  Louis SHARP SHA NZL 18 y/o	 SHA
	21  James WHARTON WHA AUS 19 y/o	 WHA
	22  José GARFIAS GAR MEX 21 y/o ROOKIE	 GAR
	23  Woohyun SHIN SHI KOR 19 y/o	 SHI
	24  Fionn McLAUGHLIN MCL IRL 18 y/o ROOKIE	 MCL
	25  Jin NAKAMURA NAK JPN 20 y/o ROOKIE	 NAK
	26  Brad BENAVIDES BEN USA 24 y/o	 BEN
	27  Yevan DAVID DAV SRI 18 y/o ROOKIE	 DAV
	28  Fernando BARRICHELLO BAR BRA 20 y/o ROOKIE	 BAR
	29  Nicola LACORTE LAC ITA 18 y/o	 LAC
	30  Nandhavud BHIROMBHAKDI BHI THA 19 y/o ROOKIE	 BHI
	31  Gerrard XIE XIE CHN 19 y/o	 XIE

HALL OF FAME

DRIVERS' CHAMPIONS

2019 Robert SHWARTZMAN
PREMA Racing

2020 Oscar PIASTRI
PREMA Racing

2021 Dennis HAUGER
PREMA Racing

2022 Victor MARTINS
ART Grand Prix

2023 Gabriel BORTOLETO
TRIDENT

2024 Leonardo FORNAROLI
TRIDENT

2025 Rafael CÂMARA
TRIDENT

TEAMS' CHAMPIONS

2019 PREMA Racing

2020 PREMA Racing

2021 TRIDENT

2022 PREMA Racing

2023 PREMA Racing

2024 PREMA Racing

2025 Campos Racing

MEDIA PLATFORM

The FIA Formula 3 Media Kit and stats sheet are now available via our media platform, along with a selection of driver interviews.

[FIA F3 MEDIA ASSETS](#) [CLICK HERE](#)

SEASON RECAP

POLE
POSITION

SPRINT RACE
WINNER 🏆

FASTEST LAP
⊖ FL BONUS POINTS

FEATURE RACE
WINNER 🏆

FASTEST LAP
⊖ FL BONUS POINTS

1	06-08 March	 Melbourne AUSTRALIA Albert Park Grand Prix Circuit					
2	10-12 April	 Sakhir SAHRAIN Bahrain International Circuit					
3	04-07 June	 Monaco MONACO Circuit de Monaco					
4	12-14 June	 Barcelona-Catalunya SPAIN Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya					
5	26-28 June	 Spielberg AUSTRIA Red Bull Ring					
6	03-05 July	 Silverstone GREAT BRITAIN Silverstone Circuit					
7	17-19 July	 Spa-Francorchamps BELGIUM Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps					
8	24-26 July	 Budapest HUNGARY Hungaroring					
9	04-06 September	 Monza ITALY Autodromo Nazionale Monza					
10	11-13 September	 Madrid SPAIN Madrid					