



PRESS RELEASE

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Giusti leads strong MP Motorsport 1-2-3 at Monza opener



Alessandro Giusti led the way for MP Motorsport at the Monza Free Practice, topping the timesheets with a 1:37.445. Tuukka Taponen set the early benchmark of a 1:40.020, with his MP teammate Giusti half a second behind in P2. Noah Stromsted then reduced the gap to Taponen to 0.337s as PREMA Racing debutant Alex Powell went up to P3. Hitech's Jin Nakamura then took over at the top but was quickly demoted to P2 by Mattia Colnaghi, who completed a

1:39.467.

The times were starting to pour in quickly as HiYu Yamakoshi went to within 0.064s off Colnaghi. However, on his next lap, Taponen regained top spot with a 1:39.150. Title hopeful Ugo Ugochukwu then went quickest on a 1:38.883, putting him 0.108s clear of AIX Racing's Yevan David. But Taponen was once again showing his strong pace as he went back to P1, this time on a 1:38.444, as Taito Kato followed him across the line to go to second, albeit 0.405s behind.

The ART Grand Prix driver reduced the gap to 0.202s on his next lap, while his teammate Kanato Le jumped up to third. Taponen improved to a 1:38.437 but his lead was reduced with Van Amersfoort Racing's Yamakoshi just 0.088s behind in P2.

With just over 14 minutes to go in the session, the teams fitted the Soft tyre on their cars as they prepared for some qualifying simulation laps. The drivers returned to the track with less than 10 minutes left of Practice, with Campos Racing's Ernesto Rivera going quickest on a 1:37.901. MP were showing great form as Giusti set the Formula 3 lap record around Monza with a 1:37.445 to lead teammate Taponen by 0.232s. Colnaghi then made it a 1-2-3 for the Dutch team at the chequered flag, just as Ugochukwu and Matteo De Palo made contact down the main straight, leaving both cars by the side of the road with damage.

That brought an end to a strong session for MP with Giusti ahead of Taponen and Colnaghi. Gerrard Xie was fourth for DAMS Lucas Oil ahead of Rivera. David was sixth ahead of Le and Stromsted, with Nicola Lacorte in ninth as VAR's Bruno del Pino rounded out the top 10.

That wraps up the session with Group A set to hit the track for qualifying at 14:00 local time, before Group B get going at 14:20.

FIA Formula 3 - Monza - Provisional Classification - Free Practice

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	LAPTIME
1	Alessandro Giusti	FRA	MP Motorsport	1:37.445
2	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	MP Motorsport	1:37.677
3	Mattia Colnaghi	ARG	MP Motorsport	1:37.865
4	Gerrard Xie	CHN	DAMS Lucas Oil	1:37.875
5	Ernesto Rivera	MEX	Campos Racing	1:37.901

	6	Yevan David		SRI	AIX Racing		1:37.944	
	7	Kanato Le		JPN	ART Grand Prix		1:37.978	
	8	Noah Stromsted		DEN	TRIDENT		1:38.071	
	9	Nicola Lacorte		ITA	DAMS Lucas Oil		1:38.095	
	10	Bruno Del Pino		ESP	Van Amersfoort Racing		1:38.197	
	11	Brando Badoer		ITA	Rodin Motorsport		1:38.237	
	12	Pedro Clerot		BRA	Rodin Motorsport		1:38.279	
	13	HiYu Yamakoshi		JPN	Van Amersfoort Racing		1:38.332	
	14	Freddie Slater		GBR	TRIDENT		1:38.360	
	15	Theophile Nael		FRA	Campos Racing		1:38.399	
	16	Alex Powell		USA	PREMA Racing		1:38.422	
	17	James Wharton		AUS	PREMA Racing		1:38.508	
	18	Enzo Deligny		FRA	Van Amersfoort Racing		1:38.604	
	19	Christian Ho		SGP	Rodin Motorsport		1:38.612	
	20	Jin Nakamura		JPN	Hitech		1:38.622	
	21	Taito Kato		JPN	ART Grand Prix		1:38.646	
	22	Nandhavud Bhirombhakdi		THA	DAMS Lucas Oil		1:38.743	
	23	Ugo Ugochukwu		USA	Campos Racing		1:38.765	
	24	Ricardo Escotto		MEX	AIX Racing		1:38.882	
	25	Matteo De Palo		ITA	TRIDENT		1:38.904	
	26	Fernando Barrichello		BRA	AIX Racing		1:38.987	
	27	Jose Garfias		MEX	PREMA Racing		1:39.045	
	28	Fionn McLaughlin		IRL	Hitech		1:39.247	
	29	Maciej Gladysz		POL	ART Grand Prix		1:39.302	
	30	Woohyun Shin		KOR	Hitech		1:39.365	

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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