



PRESS RELEASE

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Slater takes back-to-back poles after Red Flag



Freddie Slater earned his second Aramco Pole Position Award, setting a 2:05.150 on his first attempt in a rain and Red Flag-affected session. The TRIDENT driver finished ahead of Tuukka Taponen, who earned P2 for MP Motorsport, while Hiyyu Yamakoshi wound up third, although the Van Amersfoort Racing driver was involved in the session-ending Red Flag incident. All drivers were OK, but the session was halted early.

The session began with rain beginning to fall, and drivers were desperate to get their times in early in case the intensity increased. Louis Sharp was at the head of the field and delivered a 2:06:864, but he was bettered immediately by teammate James Wharton.

Pedro Clerot then went to the top until Yamakoshi went quicker still. Taponen beat the Japanese driver by 0.088s to take provisional top spot. But Slater went quickest overall on a 2:05.150, a quarter of a second ahead than the Finn in P2 with everyone's first lap times on the board. Drivers pushed on immediately for a second attempt as the rain increased, with Fionn McLaughlin informed over team radio that heavy rain was five minutes away.

Noah Stromsted went up to fourth on his second lap ahead of Ernesto Rivera in fifth with 22 minutes to go. Drivers then backed off to prepare another flying lap which kickstarted the battle for track position, with everyone eager for a slipstream and to avoid leading the field from the very front.

Some drivers opted to pit at the end of the lap while those that continued and opened a third attempt found that track conditions had deteriorated enough to prevent any improvements. They all boxed at the end of the lap with 17 minutes left of the session. Cars re-emerged from the pitlane with just under half of the session remaining and with several drivers in search of an improvement. Championship leader Ugo Ugochukwu sat ninth as his closest rival in the Standings retained provisional pole.

There was more battling for track position heading into the final 10 minutes, but this time, several cars made contact. Stromsted collided with Yevan David, who tagged José Garfias, while Yamakoshi was involved also. It caused a Red Flag with 9:38 left on the clock with the TRIDENT, AIX Racing and Van Amersfoort Racing cars needing to be cleared away.

With the rain increasing, the session was not resumed. It left Slater on top ahead of Taponen and Yamakoshi. Stromsted and Rivera were fourth and fifth, followed by MP driver Mattia Colnaghi, Clerot, Brando Badoer, both of Rodin Motorsport and they were followed by Campos duo of Ugochukwu and Théophile Nael. ART Grand Prix's Taito Kato was 11th ahead of compatriot Jin

Nakamura in P12.

The FIA Formula 3 Sprint Race is scheduled for 10:00 local time with Nakamura of Hitech set to go from reverse grid pole.

FIA Formula 3 - Spa-Francorchamps - Provisional Classification - Qualifying

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	LAPTIME
1	Freddie Slater	GBR	TRIDENT	2:05.150
2	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	MP Motorsport	2:05.401
3	Hiyu Yamakoshi	JPN	Van Amersfoort Racing	2:05.489
4	Noah Stromsted	DEN	TRIDENT	2:05.518
5	Ernesto Rivera	MEX	Campos Racing	2:05.526
6	Mattia Colnaghi	ARG	MP Motorsport	2:05.695
7	Pedro Clerot	BRA	Rodin Motorsport	2:05.770
8	Brando Badoer	ITA	Rodin Motorsport	2:05.851
9	Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	Campos Racing	2:05.905
10	Theophile Nael	FRA	Campos Racing	2:05.928
11	Taito Kato	JPN	ART Grand Prix	2:05.931
12	Jin Nakamura	JPN	Hitech	2:05.976
13	Christian Ho	SGP	Rodin Motorsport	2:06.006
14	Louis Sharp	NZL	PREMA Racing	2:06.027
15	Maciej Gladysz	POL	ART Grand Prix	2:06.055
16	Alessandro Giusti	FRA	MP Motorsport	2:06.153
17	Yevan David	SRI	AIX Racing	2:06.179
18	Nandhavud Bhirombhakdi	THA	DAMS Lucas Oil	2:06.189
19	James Wharton	AUS	PREMA Racing	2:06.222
20	Gerrard Xie	CHN	DAMS Lucas Oil	2:06.228
21	Jose Garfias	MEX	PREMA Racing	2:06.323
22	Bruno Del Pino	ESP	Van Amersfoort Racing	2:06.334
23	Matteo De Palo	ITA	TRIDENT	2:06.341
24	Nicola Lacorte	ITA	DAMS Lucas Oil	2:06.410
25	Kanato Le	JPN	ART Grand Prix	2:06.429
26	Fernando Barrichello	BRA	AIX Racing	2:06.557
27	Enzo Deligny	FRA	Van Amersfoort Racing	2:06.831
28	Woohyun Shin	KOR	Hitech	2:06.900
29	Fionn Mclaughlin	IRL	Hitech	2:07.022
30	Ricardo Escotto	MEX	AIX Racing	2:07.354

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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