



AZERBAIJAN GRAND PRIX QUALIFYING

MERCEDES DRIVER LEWIS HAMILTON SETS FASTEST-EVER LAP OF BAKU TO CLAIM POLE ON SUPERSOFT TYRE

ONLY THE SUPERSOFT USED FROM START TO FINISH OF QUALIFYING

ONE PIT STOP EXPECTED FOR THE RACE TOMORROW, WITH LOW WEAR AND DEGRADATION ON ALL COMPOUNDS

Baku, June 24, 2017 – Lewis Hamilton's pole time of 1m40.593s, set on the P Zero Red supersoft tyre, was the fastest-ever seen in the one-year history of the Baku City Circuit, more than two seconds faster than last year's pole.

The supersoft was used by everybody from the start to finish of qualifying, with Hamilton using just one new set each in Q1 and Q2, before using two sets in Q3. The final Q3 session was interrupted by a red flag with three and a half minutes to go, meaning that Hamilton set pole in a final showdown against all the leading runners.

Track temperature fell by about 10 degrees from the beginning of Q1 to the end of Q3, with the drivers also benefitting from the extra rubber that has been laid on the track by previous sessions. One pit stop is set to be the most likely strategy tomorrow, although there is chance that tactics could be influenced by safety cars.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"Qualifying went as we expected it to, with a bit more rubber on the surface and falling track temperatures. Most teams had used the out lap plus a preparation lap before setting their fastest times, but obviously this was not possible after the red flag at the end of Q3. Nonetheless, the fastest laps came in the final sprint. Looking towards the race, it's clear that wear and degradation is very low, even on the supersoft, and so we would expect only one pit stop tomorrow, with drivers maximising their use of the faster supersoft. However, with safety cars and other race incidents seemingly quite likely, teams may be able to tactically benefit from evolving circumstances."

HOW THE TYRES BEHAVED TODAY



RED SUPERSOFT

Used from start to finish of qualifying by all the drivers: low wear and degradation.



YELLOW SOFT

Will be used in the race tomorrow with supersoft but about a second slower.



WHITE MEDIUM

Very unlikely to be seen now for the remainder of the weekend.



FREE PRACTICE 3 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Bottas	1m 42.742s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m 42.837s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m 43.158s	SUPERSOFT NEW

QUALIFYING TOP 10

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m40.593s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Bottas	1m41.027s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m41.693s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Vettel	1m41.841s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m41.879s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Perez	1m42.111s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Ocon	1m42.186s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Stroll	1m42.753s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Massa	1m42.798s	SUPERSOFT USED
Ricciardo	1m43.414s	SUPERSOFT NEW

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
MEDIUM	Ricciardo, Verstappen	11
SOFT	Ocon	23
SUPERSOFT	Bottas, Massa	25



BEST TIME BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
MEDIUM	Massa	1m 46.343s
SOFT	Bottas	1m 43.720s
SUPERSOFT	Hamilton	1m 40.593s

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