



## BELGIAN GRAND PRIX *PRACTICE SESSIONS*

**HAMILTON BEATS LAST YEAR'S POLE IN FP1 AND SETS BEST TIME OF DAY IN FP2 – CLOSE TO THE FASTEST-EVER LAP – ON ULTRASOFT'S SPA DEBUT**

**ALL THREE SLICK COMPOUNDS USED TODAY, WITH RAIN AT THE END OF FP2 ALSO BRINGING OUT THE INTERMEDIATE**

**AROUND ONE SECOND SEPARATES SUPERSOFT FROM ULTRASOFT WITH WEATHER MAKING IT HARD TO COLLECT FULL DATA ON DEGRADATION**

*Spa-Francorchamps, August 25, 2017* – Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton has gone fastest in free practice for the Belgian Grand Prix on P Zero Purple ultrasoft tyres, beating last year's FP2 benchmark by 3.3 seconds. Hamilton's best time of 1m44.753s also beat last year's pole (set on the supersoft) and took him very close to the all-time Formula 1 record for the fastest lap at Spa: 1m44.503s, which dates back to Q2 in 2009. The afternoon's FP2 session peaked at 34 degrees of track temperature and 27 degrees ambient, then cooled down until heavy rain fell at the end of the session – with Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo the first to try the intermediate tyres.

### MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

*"Although it's still very early in the weekend, we can already see that there's around a one-second performance gap between supersoft and ultrasoft, while the soft compound appears to be an effective race tyre too. With many drivers taking full advantage of all three compounds available in their pre-race selections, a number of different race strategies are possible, so gathering as much information as possible during free practice was paramount. The typical Spa weather, with rain falling during the long runs, made it hard to fully assess tyre degradation. While Hamilton's fastest time on the ultrasoft was remarkable, close to the all-time Spa record, initial projections of race pace seem closely matched between the frontrunners. As usual at Spa, it looks like we're in for an unpredictable weekend."*

### FREE PRACTICE 1 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Raikkonen	1m45.502s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m45.555s	SOFT NEW
Vettel	1m45.647s	ULTRASOFT NEW

### FREE PRACTICE 2 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m44.753s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m45.015s	ULTRASOFT NEW



Bottas	1m45.180s	<b>ULTRASOFT NEW</b>
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### FP1 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
<b>SOFT</b>	Hamilton	1m 45.555s
<b>SUPERSOFT</b>	Hamilton	1m 46.439s
<b>ULTRASOFT</b>	Raikkonen	1m 45.502s

### FP2 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
<b>SOFT</b>	Hamilton	1m 45.634s
<b>SUPERSOFT</b>	Bottas	1m 46.331s
<b>ULTRASOFT</b>	Hamilton	1m 44.753s

### MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
<b>SOFT</b>	Raikkonen	17
<b>SUPERSOFT</b>	Sainz	16
<b>ULTRASOFT</b>	Palmer	16
<b>INTERMEDIATE</b>	Alonso, Ricciardo	1

### TYRE STATISTICS OF THE DAY

				
Kms driven*	1092	1631	2093	14
Sets used overall**	17	28	33	2

\* The above number gives the total amount of kilometres driven in FP1 and FP2 today, all drivers combined.

\*\* Per compound, all drivers combined.



## MINIMUM PRESCRIBED TYRE PRESSURES



**23.5 psi (fronts) – 21.5 psi (rears)**

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### THE RACING SPOT

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