



## BELGIAN GRAND PRIX QUALIFYING

**FASTEST-EVER LAP OF SPA SET IN QUALIFYING WITH P ZERO PURPLE  
ULTRASOFT: POLE FASTER BY 4.2s COMPARED TO 2016**

**A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT STRATEGIES POSSIBLE FOR THE RACE USING  
ALL THREE COMPOUNDS: WEATHER CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCERTAIN**

**FERRARI AND MERCEDES THE ONLY TEAMS TO GET THROUGH Q1 WITH  
SUPERSOFT ONLY: FERRARI THEN USES JUST ONE ULTRASOFT SET IN Q2**

*Spa-Francorchamps, August 26, 2017* – Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton set pole position for the Belgian Grand Prix with the fastest-ever lap of the Spa-Francorchamps circuit using the ultrasoft compound tyres, making their first appearance at the Belgian Grand Prix. The previous record, dating back to 2009, was already broken at the end of FP3 this morning – where championship protagonists Sebastian Vettel and Lewis Hamilton were separated by just one thousandth of a second. Conditions for qualifying were completely dry, peaking at 37 degrees of track temperature: the warmest conditions seen all weekend so far. Ferrari and Mercedes were the only team to get through Q1 using the supersoft only, with all the competitors then using ultrasoft to the finish.

### MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

*“From this morning, it was clear that we were in for a very close qualifying session, with little to separate the leaders. As Spa is the longest circuit of the calendar with the ultrasoft being run for the first time here, we also saw the biggest improvement compared to last year’s pole, more than four seconds. A wide number of strategies involving all three different tyre compounds are possible for the race tomorrow, meaning that tactics could really make the difference with the competition so tightly balanced. However, as we saw this morning at the beginning of FP3, the weather will always be a random factor at Spa, so this is something that could certainly play a big part.”*

### HOW THE TYRES BEHAVED TODAY



PURPLE **ULTRASOFT**

The tyre mostly seen in qualifying: top 10 will start on this tomorrow (if dry).



RED **SUPERSOFT**

Only Mercedes and Ferrari got through Q1 using supersoft only.



YELLOW **SOFT**

Used only by Force India at the beginning of Q1 but could become an important race tyre.



### FREE PRACTICE 3 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Raikkonen	1m 43.916s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Vettel	1m 44.113s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m 44.114s	ULTRASOFT NEW

### QUALIFYING TOP 10

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m 42.553s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Vettel	1m 42.795s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Bottas	1m 43.094s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m 43.270s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m43.380s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m 43.863s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hulkenberg	1m 44.982s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Perez	1m 45.244s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ocon	1m 45.369s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Palmer	-	ULTRASOFT NEW

### MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
SOFT	Raikkonen	17
SUPERSOFT	Sainz	16
ULTRASOFT	Palmer	16
INTERMEDIATE	Alonso	4



## BEST TIME BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
SOFT	Hamilton	1m 45.555s
SUPERSOFT	Hamilton	1m 44.184s
ULTRASOFT	Hamilton	1m 42.553s

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