



JAPANESE GRAND PRIX *PRACTICE SESSIONS*

**VETTEL GOES QUICKEST IN A DRY FP1 ON SUPERSOFT.
HEAVY RAIN AFFECTS FP2, WITH HAMILTON FASTEST ON FULL WET**

**VETTEL'S FASTEST TIME OF THE DAY BEATS LAST YEAR'S POLE BY MORE
THAN A SECOND AND IS JUST 0.2 SECONDS OFF ALL-TIME SUZUKA RECORD**

**LAP TIME GAP BETWEEN SOFT AND SUPERSOFT IS AROUND 0.7 SECONDS
BUT LACK OF RUNNING MAKES DATA INCONCLUSIVE**

Suzuka, October 6, 2017 - Free practice at Suzuka was interrupted twice: firstly by a red flag in FP1, and then again by heavy rain that severely limited FP2. However, Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel proved the potential pace of this year's race by setting a fastest time in FP1 that was nearly three seconds quicker than the equivalent time last year, and more than a second faster than the 2016 pole.

This was even though the German had far from a perfect lap, with some humidity already making the track tricky and a bit of traffic as well. Although there was a red flag that interrupted FP1, the teams were still able to complete some runs on the soft and supersoft compounds, which are currently separated by about 0.7 seconds per lap in terms of pace. Only the full wet tyre was used in the heavy rain this afternoon, for a limited number of laps. Conditions for the rest of the weekend are expected to be mixed: wet for some of Saturday and then dry on Sunday.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"Lap times in FP1 were much faster than we've seen in the past once more, both because of the new regulations with wider tyres, and a softer tyre nomination for Japan than we have had in the past. As Suzuka is quite intensively used during the year, there was already some rubber on the track that enabled the cars to be quick straight away this morning, and the supersoft to work very well right out of the box. With the red flag in FP1 and the rain in FP2 – which meant that no cars took to the track for the first 45 minutes of the session – the amount of running was of course severely limited, but already the potential when it comes to race pace is clear to see".

FREE PRACTICE 1 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Vettel	1m29.166s	SUPERSOFT USED
Hamilton	1m29.377s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m29.541s	SUPERSOFT NEW

FREE PRACTICE 2 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m48.719s	WET NEW



Ocon	1m49.518s	WET NEW
Perez	1m51.345s	WET NEW

FP1 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
MEDIUM	-	-
SOFT	Vettel	1m29.419s
SUPERSOFT	Vettel	1m29.166s

FP2 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
MEDIUM	-	-
SOFT	-	-
SUPERSOFT	-	-
WET	Hamilton	1m48.719s

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
MEDIUM	Alonso, Hulkenberg, Palmer, Sainz	2
SOFT	Perez	18
SUPERSOFT	Bottas, Ericsson, Hamilton	17
WET	Hamilton, Stroll	4

TYRE STATISTICS OF THE DAY

				
Kms driven*	81	905	1678	174
Sets used overall**	10	20	29	14

* 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



22.5 psi (fronts) – **20.5** psi (rears)

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THE RACING SPOT

More info on
Racingspot.pirelli.com

For further information please contact

Roberto Boccafoli • +39 335 125 6694 • roberto.boccafoli@pirelli.com

Maria Stella Narciso • +39 338 942 3585 • mariastella.narciso@pirelli.com

Anthony Peacock • +44 7765 896 930 • anthony@mediaticaworld.com

Sara Vimercati • +39 366 620 9720 • sara.vimercati@pirelli.com

Pirelli Tyre Press Office • +39 02 6442 4270 • pressoffice@pirelli.com