



UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX QUALIFYING

**MERCEDES DRIVER LEWIS HAMILTON ON POLE WITH ULTRASOFT
AFTER LOWERING LAP RECORD AGAIN AND GOING FASTEST IN FREE PRACTICE**

**MERCEDES AND FERRARI SAVE A SET OF ULTRASOFT BY BEING THE ONLY
TEAMS TO GET THROUGH Q1 USING SUPERSOFT ONLY**

**TWO PIT STOPS LIKELY FOR THE RACE TOMORROW. A ONE STOPPER IS ALSO
VERY FAST, IN THE CASE OF LOWER DEGRADATION**

Austin, October 21, 2017 – After topping all three practice sessions and breaking the track record yesterday, Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton lowered the benchmark again today by taking pole on the ultrasoft.

In contrast to yesterday, conditions today remained warm and dry, with ambient temperatures peaking at 35 degrees centigrade. Mercedes and Ferrari were the only teams to get through Q1 using the supersoft tyre only, with ultrasoft then used by all drivers for the rest of qualifying – with just one exception.

Several drivers face grid penalties as the season closes, and this influenced tyre strategy. Renault's Nico Hulkenberg qualified in the top 10 in Q1 but did not elect to take part in Q2 to save tyres for the race, as he has a big grid penalty already. Red Bull's Max Verstappen is also affected by a grid penalty and was the only driver to run on supersoft in Q2: which he will start the race on tomorrow.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"The tyres behaved in line with expectations, following more consistent running in warmer conditions today after a disjointed day yesterday. Again, we've seen the lap record broken today, but long runs suggest that race pace among the frontrunners should be quite closely matched. We expect two pit stops to be the favoured strategy: however, this will very much depend on track temperatures and degradation rates. This circuit provides good overtaking opportunities, creating possibilities for teams to adopt different strategies if the race circumstances suit them. With some drivers starting out of position due to grid penalties, this means that there could be some intriguing tactics, as we already saw in qualifying."

HOW THE TYRES BEHAVED TODAY



PURPLE **ULTRASOFT**

Used throughout the majority of qualifying: top 10 will start on it.



RED **SUPERSOFT**

Red Bull's Max Verstappen was the only driver to use these in Q2.



YELLOW **SOFT**

A suitable choice for a one-stop strategy



FREE PRACTICE 3 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m 34.478s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Vettel	1m 34.570s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Bottas	1m 34.692s	ULTRASOFT NEW

QUALIFYING TOP 10

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m 33.108s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Vettel	1m 33.347s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Bottas	1m 33.568s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m 33.577s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m 33.577s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m 33.658s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ocon	1m 34.647s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Sainz	1m 34.852s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Alonso	1m 35.007s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Perez	1m 35.148s	ULTRASOFT USED

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
SOFT	Kvyat	21
SUPERSOFT	Sainz	25
ULTRASOFT	Hartley	20
INTERMEDIATE	Sainz	9
WET	Stroll	1



BEST TIME BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
SOFT	Verstappen	1m 36.328s
SUPERSOFT	Verstappen	1m 34.716s
ULTRASOFT	Hamilton	1m 33.108s
INTERMEDIATE	Massa	1m 47.692s

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