

FERRARI'S SEBASTIAN VETTEL TAKES POLE POSITION ON P ZERO RED SUPERSOFT TYRES, BREAKING BAHRAIN LAP RECORD

**MERCEDES DRIVER LEWIS HAMILTON, WITH A FIVE-PLACE GRID PENALTY,
WILL RUN AN ALTERNATIVE STRATEGY BY STARTING RACE ON SOFT**

**TWO PIT STOPS LIKELY FOR THE RACE WITH MANY DIFFERENT TACTICAL
PERMUTATIONS POSSIBLE AND SEVERAL DRIVERS OUT OF POSITION**

Sakhir, April 7, 2018 – Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel claimed pole position at the Bahrain Grand Prix, using the supersoft tyre. His best time in Q3 of 1m27.958s beats the previous all-time Bahrain lap record, set by Valtteri Bottas in qualifying last year. Following the session, Vettel collected the Pirelli Pole Position Award from Pirelli's Head of Car Racing Mario Isola.

Vettel, his Ferrari team mate Kimi Raikkonen and the Mercedes of Bottas were the only cars to get through Q1 on the soft tyres only (around 0.6 seconds per lap slower than the supersoft) with track temperatures of nearly 40 degrees centigrade at the start of the evening session, which progressively cooled.

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton, facing a five-place grid penalty, will run an alternative strategy after setting his best time in Q2 on the soft tyre, meaning that this is the compound he will start the race on tomorrow evening.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"After an action-packed qualifying, there will be a few drivers starting out of their usual positions tomorrow, which should make for an entertaining race. We've already seen some interesting strategies in view of the race tomorrow. Lewis Hamilton beat last year's supersoft pole time already in Q2 using the soft tyre, with which he will start the race, against the rest of the top 10 on supersoft. We can expect two pit stops for most of the cars tomorrow, but there are a number of different potential combinations that could work, depending on the speed of each car and the individual race circumstances."

HOW THE TYRES BEHAVED TODAY



RED **SUPERSOFT**

Used by all the drivers throughout qualifying, apart from three in Q1.



YELLOW **SOFT**

Hamilton set his fastest Q2 time on them, so will use soft for his first race stint.



WHITE **MEDIUM**

Not seen in qualifying but could form part of a one-stop strategy in the race.

FREE PRACTICE 3 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Raikkonen	1m29.868s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m30.393s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m30.452s	SUPERSOFT NEW

QUALIFYING TOP 10

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Vettel	1m27.958s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m28.101s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Bottas	1m28.124s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m28.220s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m28.398s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Gasly	1m29.329s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Magnussen	1m29.358s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Hulkenberg	1m29.570s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Ocon	1m29.874s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Sainz	1m29.986s	SUPERSOFT NEW

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
MEDIUM	Sirotkin	25
SOFT	Leclerc	30
SUPERSOFT	Ericsson	28

BEST TIME BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
MEDIUM	Hamilton	1m31.459s
SOFT	Hamilton	1m28.458s
SUPERSOFT	Vettel	1m27.958s

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