

SEBASTIAN VETTEL CLAIMS POLE POSITION FOR FERRARI ON ULTRASOFT IN COOL CONDITIONS: WARMER WEATHER EXPECTED TOMORROW

STRATEGY A CENTREPIECE OF QUALIFYING, WITH BOTH MERCEDES AND FERRARI CHOOSING TO START THE RACE ON THE SOFT TYRE

A MIXTURE OF STRATEGIES POSSIBLE TOMORROW WITH ALL THREE COMPOUNDS A VIABLE OPTION FOR THE RACE

Shanghai, April 14, 2018 – Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel set pole position using P Zero Purple ultrasoft tyres by breaking the Shanghai all-time track record from last year, in cool conditions of 14 degrees centigrade ambient and 15 degrees on track.

Ultrasoft was mainly seen in qualifying, apart from Haas's Kevin Magnussen and both Williams, who used the soft during Q1. The soft tyres were also a highlight of Q2, with both Mercedes and Ferrari running on it to ensure they will start the race on this compound tomorrow after a highly-tactical session.

The final Q3 session was the only one run exclusively on the ultrasoft tyres, with pole position decided on the final runs.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"The cool conditions helped the ultrasoft tyre today, which has a low working range, but the picture might change slightly tomorrow if conditions are a bit warmer, as is expected. Qualifying today was particularly tricky as yesterday's rain also cleaned the track of residual rubber, leaving very little grip and ensuring drivers had to warm up the rubber carefully. Nonetheless, we saw the track record broken around this circuit, with a particularly good effort by Red Bull to get Daniel Ricciardo out after an engine change. The crucial session was Q2, with both Mercedes and Ferrari choosing to start the race on the soft tyre. Strategy-wise, we could see a variety of options tomorrow, with a one-stop possible. With the nominations we have selected, all three compounds can play an important role."

HOW THE TYRES BEHAVED TODAY



PURPLE **ULTRASOFT**

Top 10 apart from Mercedes and Ferrari will start on this tyre



YELLOW **SOFT**

Seen during Q1 with Haas and Williams; also in Q2 with Mercedes and Ferrari.



WHITE **MEDIUM**

Not seen in qualifying but could be an important part of a potential one-stopper.

FREE PRACTICE 3 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Vettel	1m33.018s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m33.469s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Bottas	1m33.761s	ULTRASOFT NEW

QUALIFYING TOP 10

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Vettel	1m31.095s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m31.182s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Bottas	1m31.625s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m31.675s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m31.796s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m31.948s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hulkenberg	1m32.532s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Perez	1m32.758s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Sainz	1m32.819s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Grosjean	1m32.855s	ULTRASOFT NEW

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
MEDIUM	Leclerc	21
SOFT	Ericsson, Sirotkin	21
ULTRASOFT	Gasly	22
INTERMEDIATE	Ocon, Perez	3

BEST TIME BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
MEDIUM	Bottas	1m34.387s
SOFT	Hamilton	1m31.914s
ULTRASOFT	Vettel	1m31.095s
INTERMEDIATE	Ocon	1m51.665s

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