



Formula 1
Pirelli Grand Prix de France
2018



LEWIS HAMILTON GOES FASTEST FOR MERCEDES ON ULTRASOFT TYRE AS PAUL RICARD RETURNS TO THE FORMULA 1 CALENDAR

**TRACK TEMPERATURES IN EXCESS OF 50 DEGREES CENTIGRADE
IN THE AFTERNOON, COOLER CONDITIONS EXPECTED TOMORROW**

**HIGHER PERFORMANCE GAPS BETWEEN THE ULTRASOFT AND SUPERSOFT
THAN EXPECTED SO FAR, BUT NO ISSUES WITH BLISTERING OR GRAINING**

Le Castellet, June 22, 2018 – The opening day of competition at the newly-resurfaced Paul Ricard circuit was characterised by high track temperatures in excess of 50 degrees centigrade, as the teams got to grips with the latest addition to the Formula 1 calendar.

The ultrasoft tyre set the fastest time in both sessions with Lewis Hamilton, but all three compounds showed the performance to be realistic prospects for the race, while Red Bull was also a strong challenger in each free practice session. With both racing and qualifying simulations carried out (albeit interrupted by a red flag during each session) the teams have gathered plenty of data to analyse overnight.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

“We’ve seen very high track temperatures in excess of 50 degrees, which obviously favour the higher working range tyres on the harder end of the selection. However, the ultrasoft has shown plenty of performance as well, so we have all three different compounds that look viable as part of a potential race strategy. Exactly what that strategy will be depends on the result of the data analysis, which will continue after FP3 tomorrow. With a brand-new circuit, changing wind directions, cooler conditions expected tomorrow and also some red flag interruptions today, there are still a few question marks tonight. But the situation will as usual become clearer as the weekend goes on. As this is a new track, which places particular emphasis on the front tyres, it was important to see if there would be any issues with blistering or graining, but nothing of the sort has been observed so far.”

FREE PRACTICE 1 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m32.231s	ULTRASOFT USED
Bottas	1m32.371s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m32.527s	ULTRASOFT NEW

FREE PRACTICE 2 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m32.539s	ULTRASOFT USED
Ricciardo	1m33.243s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m33.271s	ULTRASOFT NEW

FP1 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
ULTRASOFT	Hamilton	1m32.231s
SUPERSOFT	Gasly	1m33.685s
SOFT	Ricciardo	1m32.576s

FP2 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
ULTRASOFT	Hamilton	1m32.539s
SUPERSOFT	Hamilton	1m33.582s
SOFT	Bottas	1m34.156s

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
ULTRASOFT	Hartley	21
SUPERSOFT	Vettel	27
SOFT	Sirotkin	23

TYRE STATISTICS OF THE DAY

			
Kms driven*	852	1822	3131
Sets used overall**	11	23	44

* The above number gives the total amount of kilometres driven in FP1 and FP2 today, all drivers combined.

** Per compound, all drivers combined.

MIN. STARTING PRESSURES (slicks)		EOS CAMBER LIMIT	
	22.5 psi (front) 21.0 psi (rear)	-3.50° (front) -2.00° (rear)	

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