



Formula 1
Pirelli Grand Prix de France
2018



LEWIS HAMILTON TAKES POLE ON ULTRASOFT FOR MERCEDES AFTER A CLOSELY-FOUGHT QUALIFYING HELD IN UNCERTAIN CONDITIONS

MERCEDES AND RED BULL TO START THE FRENCH GRAND PRIX ON SUPERSOFT AFTER SETTING THEIR FASTEST TIMES WITH THEM IN Q2

ONE PIT STOP A LIKELY OPTION FOR THE RACE, BUT A TWO-STOPPER ALSO A POSSIBILITY, WITH THE CHANCE OF FURTHER RAIN

Le Castellet, June 23, 2018 – Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton claimed pole for the French Grand Prix on the ultrasoft tyre and so claimed the Pirelli Pole Position Award. This was given to him by British cyclist Simon Yates, who earlier completed a lap of the Paul Ricard track on Pirelli P Zero Velo tyres, with which his Mitchelton-Scott team will contest the forthcoming Tour de France.

Hamilton set his quickest time on the ultrasoft compound, despite some spots of rain in Q3, following a downpour throughout most of FP3. More uncertain weather is a possibility during the race tomorrow.

Both Mercedes and Red Bull drivers set their fastest time in Q2 on the supersoft tyre, meaning that this is the compound they will start the grand prix with. A one-stopper seems likely, but a two-stopper could be quick as well.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

“Track and air temperatures were a lot cooler than they were yesterday, with the rain in FP3 also washing away much of the rubber that had been laid down earlier. This meant that teams had to cope with changing track conditions, during a tricky qualifying hour made even more complicated by a red flag interruption during the final Q3 session. In the end the times were extremely close, with little to split the top three teams. With Ferrari’s third-placed Sebastian Vettel being the only car in the top five to begin the race on the fast-starting ultrasoft compound, we should be in for an interesting start to the race tomorrow”.

HOW THE TYRES BEHAVED TODAY



PURPLE **ULTRASOFT**

Used throughout the majority of qualifying and set the pole time.



RED **SUPERSOFT**

Mercedes and Red Bull will start on this compound tomorrow.



YELLOW **SOFT**

Not seen today but will be an important ingredient for a one-stopper tomorrow.



BLUE **WET**

Used only for three laps during FP3 today by the Williams drivers

FREE PRACTICE 3 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Bottas	1m33.666s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Sainz	1m34.953s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Leclerc	1m35.012s	ULTRASOFT NEW

QUALIFYING TOP 10

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m30.029s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Bottas	1m30.147s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Vettel	1m30.400s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m30.705s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m30.895s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m31.057s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Sainz	1m32.126s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Leclerc	1m32.635s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Magnussen	1m32.930s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Grosjean	-	-

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
ULTRASOFT	Hartley	21
SUPERSOFT	Vettel	27
SOFT	Sirotkin	23
WET	Sirotkin, Stroll	3

BEST TIME BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
ULTRASOFT	Hamilton	1m30.029s
SUPERSOFT	Hamilton	1m30.645s
SOFT	Ricciardo	1m32.576s
WET	Stroll	2m02.399s

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