

LEWIS HAMILTON SETS FASTEST TIME FOR MERCEDES IN BOTH FREE PRACTICE SESSIONS, USING ULTRASOFT AND SOFT TYRES

COOL CONDITIONS AFTER OVERNIGHT RAIN, WITH SIMILAR TEMPERATURES EXPECTED FOR THE REST OF THE AUSTRIAN WEEKEND

CLOSE GAPS BETWEEN ALL THREE COMPOUNDS ON THE TRACK WITH THE SHORTEST LAP TIME OF THE YEAR

Spielberg, June 29, 2018 – With a short lap, very few corners and plenty of time spent on full throttle, the Red Bull Ring tends to close up the gaps between the cars, meaning that it's important to get every detail right to make the difference.

This was the case during both free practice sessions, held in cool and cloudy conditions, with similar temperatures predicted for the rest of the weekend.

Following overnight rain, the drivers used only the slick tyres, with all three compounds seen out on track today. Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton went fastest on the ultrasoft tyre in the morning session, but with more rubber on the track in the afternoon he was able to beat his benchmark using the soft tyre.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"The performance gaps between the three compounds here are quite small, as is to be expected on such a short track, where the cars are very close to one another. This means of course that the tiniest detail counts, and the teams have been pushing hard to get the set-up exactly right. The cool conditions and the overnight rain from yesterday have also contributed to quite a high degree of track evolution, with a few drivers going off the line. As is often the case here, some drivers have fallen foul of the kerbs as well. Adapting the cars to the track temperature has been a key part of the work today, in conjunction with the usual assessment of tyres on both high and low fuel loads in these conditions. With everything so finely-balanced, strategy could make an important difference, so the teams will be studying tonight's data particularly carefully."

FREE PRACTICE 1 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m04.839s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Bottas	1m04.966s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m05.072s	ULTRASOFT NEW

FREE PRACTICE 2 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m04.579s	SOFT NEW
Bottas	1m04.755s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Vettel	1m04.815s	ULTRASOFT NEW

FP1 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
ULTRASOFT	Hamilton	1m04.839s
SUPERSOFT	Hamilton	1m05.525s
SOFT	Ricciardo	1m05.571s

FP2 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
ULTRASOFT	Hamilton	1m04.649s
SUPERSOFT	Bottas	1m04.767s
SOFT	Hamilton	1m04.579s

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

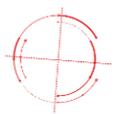
COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
ULTRASOFT	Hartley	33
SUPERSOFT	Sirotkin	30
SOFT	Verstappen	28

TYRE STATISTICS OF THE DAY

			
Kms driven*	1142	1972	3426
Sets used overall**	14	24	42

* 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) 20.5 psi (rear)	-3.50° (front) -2.00° (rear)	

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