

SEBASTIAN VETTEL TAKES POLE FOR FERRARI ON P ZERO PURPLE ULTRASOFT: THE COMMON COMPOUND ON QUALIFYING

WET FP3 SESSION MEANS THAT QUALIFYING TAKES PLACE ON A DRYING TRACK

PIT STOP STRATEGY HARD TO PREDICT BECAUSE OF MIXED CONDITIONS. ONE STOP EXPECTED: DETAILS DEPEND ON THE WEATHER

Hockenheim, July 21, 2018 – A day of mixed weather at Hockenheim added further question marks to a circuit that the teams aren't particularly familiar with, having last raced there in 2016 with a different specification of car and narrower tyres.

After hot conditions yesterday, rain this morning meant that track temperatures were considerably lower, both during a wet FP3 and a drying qualifying session. Nonetheless, conditions were still dry enough for slick tyres, with everyone running only the ultrasoft throughout Q1 and Q3.

During Q2, which was interrupted by a red flag with seven minutes to go, there were some strategic variations with Red Bull's Max Verstappen and McLaren's Fernando Alonso opting to run the soft tyre before the red flag.

In the end, they both set their fastest times on the quicker ultrasoft, meaning that all of the top 10 will start on this compound tomorrow, headed by Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, whose pole time was more than three seconds faster than the last Hockenheim pole in 2016. As a result, he becomes the only man to have claimed the Pirelli Pole Position Award five times this year.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"All the drivers embarked on today's qualifying session without the benefit of the representative data that is usually collected in FP3 on Saturday morning, due to the very wet conditions. Even though qualifying took place on drying asphalt, the top cars were still immediately on a pace that was faster than Friday's FP2 session, thanks also to asphalt temperatures that were more than 20 degrees cooler than yesterday. In these conditions, the Purple ultrasoft tyres worked perfectly, resulting in a pole position time that was more than three seconds faster than the last pole at Hockenheim set two years ago: a notable figure, given that this is quite a short lap. Strategy tomorrow will depend somewhat on the degradation of the ultrasoft in the specific weather conditions for the race, but it should be a one-stopper for everyone. In any case, all three compounds look to be viable options for the grand prix".

HOW THE TYRES BEHAVED TODAY



WHITE MEDIUM

Not used today but might be useful for a one-stop strategy.



YELLOW SOFT

Chosen for the start of Q2 by Verstappen and Alonso, who then went on to ultrasoft.



PURPLE ULTRASOFT

Used throughout the majority of qualifying; including by the top 10.



GREEN INTERMEDIATE

Used just for an out and in lap in FP3 but a possibility tomorrow if rain persists.



BLUE WET

Seen from start to finish of FP3, where the two Saubers were fastest.

FREE PRACTICE 3 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Leclerc	1m34.577s	FULL WET USED
Ericsson	1m35.000s	FULL WET USED
Sirotkin	1m35.334s	FULL WET USED

QUALIFYING TOP 10

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Vettel	1m11.212s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Bottas	1m11.416s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m11.547s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m11.822s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Magnussen	1m12.200s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Grosjean	1m12.544s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hulkenberg	1m12.560s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Sainz	1m12.692s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Leclerc	1m12.717s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Perez	1m12.774s	ULTRASOFT NEW

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
ULTRASOFT	Hulkenberg	26
SOFT	Sirotkin	28
MEDIUM	Sainz	29
INTERMEDIATE	Hulkenberg	1
WET	Ericsson, Sirotkin	9

BEST TIME BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
ULTRASOFT	Vettel	1m11.212s
SOFT	Verstappen	1m13.356s
MEDIUM	Hamilton	1m13.703s
INTERMEDIATE	Hulkenberg	-
WET	Leclerc	1m34.577s

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