

ONE-STOP SOFT-ULTRASOFT STRATEGY HELPS LEWIS HAMILTON GIVE MERCEDES A RAIN-AFFECTED WIN FROM 14TH ON THE GRID

RAIN PROVIDES WIDE VARIETY OF STRATEGIES WITH ALL THREE SLICK TYRES SEEN ON TRACK, AS WELL AS INTERMEDIATE AND WET TYRES

RED BULL'S MAX VERSTAPPEN FINISHES FOURTH WITH THREE PIT STOPS






Hockenheim, July 22, 2018 – The weather was pivotal to the German Grand Prix, with rain in the closing stages of the race making strategies almost impossible to predict. Despite the intensity of the rain, Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton was able to win with a one-stop soft-ultrasoft strategy, setting a rapid pace even on slick tyres.

A late safety car also affected the race, with Hamilton the only driver in the top six to stop only once, following a high-pressure finale in which teams tried to read the constantly-evolving grip levels. A number of drivers alternated between slick and intermediate tyres; one also used the full wets. But the final 10-lap sprint after the safety car came in was run with all the leaders on the ultrasoft, on a drying track.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"The weather conditions provided an extremely dramatic and unpredictable race. Teams had to think on their feet to counteract the constantly-changing circumstances, with only one sector of the track affected by rain while the other two remained dry. This obviously provided a very big challenge, with the ultrasoft chosen for the final stint, as this compound worked well in the mixed conditions. The six different strategies seen in the top 10 underline the difficulty of identifying the right tactics under the demanding conditions, but it's notable that despite the rain only four of the top 10 finishers used the intermediate tyres."

BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

				
Ricciardo 1m18.262s	Bottas 1m16.956s	Hamilton 1m15.545s	Alonso 1m27.445s	Gasly 1m34.544s
Magnussen 1m18.476s	Verstappen 1m17.057s	Bottas 1m15.721s	Sainz 1m29.321s	-
Hartley 1m18.563s	Raikkonen 1m17.152s	Verstappen 1m15.852s	Leclerc 1m30.735s	-

LONGEST STINT OF THE RACE

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
ULTRASOFT	Verstappen, Ericsson	29
SOFT	Perez	45
MEDIUM	Hulkenberg	33
INTERMEDIATE	Sainz	6
WET	Gasly	3

TRUTHOMETER

Even with the rain in the last third of the race, Lewis Hamilton won using only one pit stop (as we expected for a dry race) but using an alternative soft-ultrasoft strategy to try and make up places from 14th on the grid. Hamilton made his sole stop on lap 42. Only four of the top 10 stopped twice.

Car	Driver	Start	Pit 1	Pit 2	Pit 3
44	HAM	Sn	USn (42)		
77	BOT	USu	Sn (28) USn (52)		
7	RAI	USu	Sn (14) USn (53)		
33	VER	USu	Sn (29) In (46)	USu (48)	
27	HUL	USu	Mn (18) In (51)	USu (55)	
8	GRO	USu	Mn (21) In (51)	USu (55)	
11	PER	USu	Sn (22)		
31	OCO	USn	Sn (25)		
9	ERI	Sn	USn (38)		
28	HAR	Sn	Mn (28) USn (52)		
20	MAG	USu	Mn (20) In (51)	USu (55)	
55	SAI	USu	Mn (20) In (50)	USu (56)	
2	VAN	Sn	Mn (29) USn (52)		
10	GAS	Sn	Wn (43) USn (46)		
16	LEC	USu	Sn (20) In (43)	USu (46)	
14	ALO	Sn	Mn (31) In (43)	Su (47)	
18	STR	Sn	Mn (27) In (50)		
5	VET	USu	Sn (25)		
35	SIR	Sn	Mn (28) In (51)		
3	RIC	Mn			

US = Ultrasoft

S = Soft M = Medium I = Intermediate W = Wet

n = new u = used

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