

SEBASTIAN VETTEL CLAIMS POLE FOR FERRARI ON P ZERO PURPLE ULTRASOFT, IN COOL CONDITIONS WITH A SLIPPERY TRACK

BOTH MERCEDES, BOTH RED BULLS AND FERRARI'S SEBASTIAN VETTEL WILL START THE RACE ON SUPERSOFT AFTER USING THEM IN Q2

ONE PIT STOP LIKELY FOR MOST DRIVERS, BUT A FLEXIBLE STRATEGY NEEDED BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL RACE INTERRUPTIONS

Baku, April 28, 2018 – Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel claimed his third pole position of the year, using the ultrasoft tyre, after a tense qualifying session where tactics were at the forefront.

Mercedes, Ferrari and Red Bull all started the Q2 session on supersoft tyres, but switched to ultrasofts in the final moments, as an insurance policy in case the cars around them went faster. All of them apart from Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen set their fastest times though on the supersoft, which means that they will start the race on this compound.

Conditions were once again cool in Baku, with track temperatures during qualifying peaking at 27 degrees centigrade.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"One stop is the most likely option for the race tomorrow, but there are a number of different combinations of one-stopper possible. The top five are starting on the supersoft tyre, which then gives them the flexibility to decide whether to complete the race on ultrasoft or soft after a longer first stint, depending on what happens. We've already seen a few incidents on track both in Formula 1 and Formula 2, so the chance of safety cars and other delays is high. This means that all strategies will have to remain flexible and there's also the possibility of benefitting from a 'free' pit stop if the timing is right. The mix of strategies seen already adds another interesting variable to what is already a very intriguing race in Azerbaijan."

HOW THE TYRES BEHAVED TODAY



PURPLE **ULTRASOFT**

Used for most of qualifying: around 0.8s faster than supersoft.



RED **SUPERSOFT**

The strategic key to qualifying, with top teams using them in Q2.



YELLOW **SOFT**

Not used in qualifying but could be an important element in the race.

FREE PRACTICE 3 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Vettel	1m43.091s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m43.452s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m43.493s	ULTRASOFT NEW

QUALIFYING TOP 10

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Vettel	1m41.498s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m41.677s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Bottas	1m41.837s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m41.911s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m41.994s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m42.490s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ocon	1m42.523s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Perez	1m42.547s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hulkenberg	1m43.066s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Sainz	1m43.351s	ULTRASOFT NEW

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
SOFT	Sirotkin	21
SUPERSOFT	Vandoorne	22
ULTRASOFT	Bottas, Hartley	22

BEST TIME BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
SOFT	Hamilton	1m44.196s
SUPERSOFT	Hamilton	1m42.676s
ULTRASOFT	Vettel	1m41.498s

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