

## MERCEDES DRIVER LEWIS HAMILTON CLAIMS POLE POSITION ON CINTURATO GREEN INTERMEDIATE AFTER A THRILLING Q3

**THE SUPERSOFT COMPOUND, WHICH BROKE THE SPA TRACK RECORD IN Q2,  
WILL BE USED BY NEARLY ALL THE TOP 10 FOR THE RACE START**

**ONE STOP POSSIBLE FOR THE MAJORITY OF COMPETITORS TOMORROW  
WITH THE CORRECT PACE MANAGEMENT. CONDITIONS EXPECTED TO BE DRY**

*Spa-Francorchamps, August 25, 2018* - Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton will start the Belgian Grand Prix from pole tomorrow, earning the Pirelli Pole Position Award from 1996 World Champion Damon Hill: like him, a three-time winner at Spa.

Conditions stayed dry until the end of Q2, during which Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel established a new track record with the P Zero Red supersoft, used by all the leading competitors to set their quickest times. As a result, the top nine will start on this compound. Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas set his fastest time in Q2 within the top 10 on the soft tyre but is due to start the race from the back because of a grid penalty (also the case for Renault's Nico Hulkenberg). In the wet conditions of Q3, the intermediate proved to be the optimal choice with Hamilton setting pole by nearly one second.

Despite the fastest speeds and cars ever seen at the epic Spa-Francorchamps track, just one pit stop is possible tomorrow if conditions remain dry and tyre wear stays low.

### MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

*"After a lot of uncertainty about the weather, the rain finally materialised at the end of Q2. In the end, the Cinturato Green intermediates proved to be the best option in Q3, with different levels of water on the track, which is quite typical of Spa. This made it very hard to judge the final qualifying runs, with the cars driving on the intermediates for the first time all weekend. The race, by contrast, seems more likely to be dry, in which case we can expect one pit stop for the majority of competitors, with the correct pace management."*

### HOW THE TYRES BEHAVED TODAY



WHITE **MEDIUM**

Not seen in qualifying at all and not likely to feature in the race either.



YELLOW **SOFT**

Only used by Bottas in Q2 but should be the main race tyre tomorrow.



RED **SUPERSOFT**

Used for the majority of running and broke the track record in Q2.



GREEN **INTERMEDIATE**

Used in Q3 as rain began to fall harder: the tyre that set pole position.

### FREE PRACTICE 3 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Vettel	1m42.661s	<b>SUPERSOFT NEW</b>
Raikkonen	1m42.724s	<b>SUPERSOFT NEW</b>
Hamilton	1m42.798s	<b>SUPERSOFT NEW</b>

### QUALIFYING TOP 10

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m58.179s	<b>INTERMEDIATE NEW</b>
Vettel	1m58.905s	<b>INTERMEDIATE NEW</b>
Ocon	2m01.851s	<b>INTERMEDIATE NEW</b>
Perez	2m01.894s	<b>INTERMEDIATE NEW</b>
Grosjean	2m02.122s	<b>INTERMEDIATE NEW</b>
Raikkonen	2m02.671s	<b>INTERMEDIATE NEW</b>
Verstappen	2m02.769s	<b>INTERMEDIATE NEW</b>
Ricciardo	2m02.939s	<b>INTERMEDIATE NEW</b>
Magnussen	2m04.933s	<b>INTERMEDIATE NEW</b>
Bottas	-	-

### MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
<b>SUPERSOFT</b>	Ocon	23
<b>SOFT</b>	Bottas, Sirotkin	20
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Vandoorne	20
<b>INTERMEDIATE</b>	Hamilton, Vettel	5

## BEST TIME BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
<b>SUPERSOFT</b>	Vettel	1m41.501s
<b>SOFT</b>	Bottas	1m42.191s
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Hamilton	1m44.369s
<b>INTERMEDIATE</b>	Hamilton	1m58.179s

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