

LEWIS HAMILTON CLAIMS POLE POSITION ON SUPERSOFT TYRE IN MIXED WEATHER CONDITIONS

**MERCEDES DRIVERS WILL START TOMORROW'S RACE ON THE SOFT TYRES,
AFTER RUNNING THEM IN Q2 ALONG WITH HAAS**

**TEAMS WILL AIM FOR ONE STOP TOMORROW BUT A TWO-STOPPER
COULD BE QUICKER UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES**

Suzuka, October 6, 2018 – In mixed conditions, which even prompted some intermediate tyre running in Q3, Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton claimed pole position on the supersoft. As the rain fell harder, the times set on the first Q3 runs with the slick tyres proved to be quickest.

The Mercedes drivers got through Q2 on the soft tyre and so will start on this compound from first and second tomorrow. The only other driver in the top 10 of the grid who will start on the soft tyre is Haas's Romain Grosjean.

As usual, the teams will aim to one-stop tomorrow. However, with conditions expected to be much warmer and drier, race circumstances might lead to a two-stopper being quicker.

For the first time, the Pirelli Pole Position Award was presented by a local fan, chosen via a social media poll.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"In this mixed wet and dry session, it was never easy to make the right calls: in the end the times early in Q3 on the supersoft turned out to be the decisive ones. For the race tomorrow, the forecast is for conditions that are quite different. This throws a few question marks on the strategy, with the teams always looking to get through the race with just one stop if they can. However, the track and weather conditions may not make this possible. With three cars in the top 10 of the grid starting on the soft tyre – including first and second – we should see an interesting mix of strategies, with all three slick compounds having a potential role to play in the race. It was a complicated qualifying session today, but at least the teams obtained plenty of dry running data yesterday."

HOW THE TYRES BEHAVED TODAY



WHITE **MEDIUM**

Not used in qualifying but could prove to be key for a one-stopper.



YELLOW **SOFT**

Mercedes and Haas ran these in Q2: the only teams to do so.



RED **SUPERSOFT**

Used for most of quali, just under 0.7s. faster than the soft.

FREE PRACTICE 3 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m29.599s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Vettel	1m29.715s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m30.054s	SUPERSOFT NEW

QUALIFYING TOP 10

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m27.760s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Bottas	1m28.059s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m29.057s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m29.521s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Grosjean	1m29.761s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Hartley	1m30.023s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Gasly	1m30.093s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Ocon	1m30.126s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Vettel	1m32.192s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Perez	1m37.229s	SUPERSOFT NEW

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
MEDIUM	Sirotkin	25
SOFT	Stroll	25
SUPERSOFT	Sirotkin	24

BEST TIME BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
MEDIUM	Bottas	1m29.137s
SOFT	Bottas	1m27.987s
SUPERSOFT	Hamilton	1m27.760s

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