



Formula 1
Pirelli 2018 United States
Grand Prix
Austin 19-21 October



MERCEDES DRIVER LEWIS HAMILTON TAKES POLE POSITION IN DRY CONDITIONS ON ULTRASOFT

**BOTH MERCEDES, SEBASTIAN VETTEL (FERRARI) AND DANIEL RICCIARDO
(RED BULL) WILL START THE RACE ON SUPERSOFT**

**ONE STOP THE MOST LIKELY OPTION TOMORROW BUT TEAMS STILL LACKING
SLICK TYRE DATA AFTER A WET FRIDAY**

Austin, October 20, 2018 – Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton will start the United States Grand Prix from pole position: one of four drivers in the top 10 of the grid (along with his team mate Valtteri Bottas, Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel and Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo) who will begin the race on the supersoft tyre. Hamilton's ninth pole of the season means that he will end the year with more poles than anyone else, claiming the overall 2018 Pirelli Pole Position Award.

Today was the first day of dry running, which meant that teams had to concentrate their preparations for qualifying and the race into the hour-long FP3 session this morning.

The teams are likely to align their race pace to a one-stopper tomorrow: however, without a full complement of dry running data, and much warmer conditions for the race, nobody knows for certain how exactly to run this strategy.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"In the end today was completely dry, which meant that we saw quite a lot of track evolution in FP3, and the teams headed into qualifying with just one hour's worth of slick tyre data after free practice this morning. The compounds here seem quite closely matched, with around half a second between each one in terms of lap time. However, with no real long runs completed, the full picture in terms of wear and degradation is yet to fully emerge, which keeps a few intriguing question marks for the race. We've already seen variations in strategy throughout qualifying, so it will be interesting to see how this pans out tomorrow. Starting on the supersoft might allow more strategic flexibility, but this also depends on track conditions. With supersoft and ultrasoft lining up alongside each other in P1 and P2 tomorrow, it's going to be a fascinating start to the grand prix."

HOW THE TYRES BEHAVED TODAY



YELLOW **SOFT**

Not run at all today, but all three compounds are viable options for the race.



RED **SUPERSOFT**

Four drivers used them in Q2, including Lewis Hamilton on pole.



PURPLE **ULTRASOFT**

Around 0.5 seconds faster than supersoft, on the front row with Kimi Raikkonen.

FREE PRACTICE 3 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Vettel	1m33.797s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m33.843s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m33.870s	ULTRASOFT NEW

QUALIFYING TOP 10

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m32.237s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Vettel	1m32.298s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m32.307s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Bottas	1m32.616s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m33.494s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ocon	1m34.145s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hulkenberg	1m34.215s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Grosjean	1m34.250s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Leclerc	1m34.420s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Perez	1m34.594s	ULTRASOFT NEW

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
ULTRASOFT	Bottas, Raikkonen, Vettel	11
SUPERSOFT	Gasly	19
SOFT	Hartley	17

BEST TIME BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
ULTRASOFT	Hamilton	1m32.237s
SUPERSOFT	Vettel	1m33.079s
SOFT	Ocon	1m36.856s

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