

## MAX VERSTAPPEN SETS THE PACE FOR RED BULL RACING IN FREE PRACTICE ON HYPERSOFT: MORE THAN A SECOND FASTER THAN LAST YEAR

### HIGH TEMPERATURES AND PLENTY OF TRACK EVOLUTION ON AN INITIALLY DIRTY SURFACE AT AUTODROMO HERMANOS RODRIGUEZ

#### HYPERSOFT OFFERS A PACE ADVANTAGE BUT ALSO HIGHER DEGRADATION SO FAR

Mexico City, October 26, 2018 – Red Bull Racing and Max Verstappen dominated both free practice sessions in Mexico, going fastest of everyone on both the ultrasoft and hypersoft tyres, with a strong showing from Renault in both sessions as well.

With the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez not used extensively during the year, there was a ‘green’ and slippery surface in the morning with plenty of track evolution, which influenced the action, and some graining seen on the hypersoft. While the teams run a reasonably high downforce set-up, effectively this provides low downforce due to the thin air at high altitude in Mexico. Track temperatures were warm today, peaking at nearly 50 degrees centigrade in FP2, with cooling often being an issue in the race as well.

Although the hypersofts provide a certain pace advantage, degradation on them so far has been high, which will influence tomorrow’s qualifying strategy if it continues and add another element of unpredictability to the race.

#### MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

*“It was quite a tricky day to interpret, although in many ways a bit similar to what we saw in Mexico last year. Today, there was high degradation on the hypersoft in free practice, which is of course two steps softer than the softest compound we brought to Mexico in 2017 (ultrasoft). If this continues throughout the weekend, it will influence qualifying strategy, with some teams perhaps choosing to prioritise durability over outright pace, and a few different strategies presenting themselves for the race. A lot more data analysis is needed tonight and FP3 to fully understand the situation. There’s a chance of rain on Saturday night, which would obviously ‘reset’ the track and wash away the rubber that’s been deposited so far. In any case, it already promises to be a great fight over the rest of the weekend”.*

#### FREE PRACTICE 1 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Verstappen	1m16.656s	HYPERSOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m17.139s	HYPERSOFT NEW
Sainz	1m17.926s	HYPERSOFT NEW

## FREE PRACTICE 2 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Verstappen	1m16.720s	HYPERSOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m16.873s	HYPERSOFT NEW
Sainz	1m17.953s	HYPERSOFT NEW

## FP1 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
SUPERSOFT	-	-
ULTRASOFT	Hamilton	1m18.075s
HYPERSOFT	Verstappen	1m16.656s




## FP2 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
SUPERSOFT	Hamilton	1m18.779s
ULTRASOFT	Verstappen	1m17.437s
HYPERSOFT	Verstappen	1m16.720s

## MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR



COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
SUPERSOFT	Raikkonen	31
ULTRASOFT	Bottas	25
HYPERSOFT	Hartley	21

## TYRE STATISTICS OF THE DAY

			
Kms driven*	908	1230	2806
Sets used overall**	8	18	53

\* The above number gives the total amount of kilometres driven in FP1 and FP2 today, all drivers combined.

\*\* Per compound, all drivers combined.

MIN. STARTING PRESSURES (slicks)		EOS CAMBER LIMIT	
	<b>20.5</b> psi (front)   <b>20.0</b> psi (rear)	<b>-3.50°</b> (front)   <b>-2.00°</b> (rear)	

Updates are available also on our official media channels



Twitter @Pirellisport



Instagram/pirelli\_motorsport



Facebook/PirelliMotorsport



The Racing Spot: [Racingspot.pirelli.com](http://Racingspot.pirelli.com)



Pirelli F1 Press Area: [f1pressarea.pirelli.com](http://f1pressarea.pirelli.com)

For further information please contact

Roberto Boccafogli • +39 335 125 6694  
[roberto.boccafogli@pirelli.com](mailto:roberto.boccafogli@pirelli.com)

Anthony Peacock • +44 7765 896 930  
[anthony.peacock.ex@pirelli.com](mailto:anthony.peacock.ex@pirelli.com)

Sara Vimercati • +39 366 620 9720  
[sara.vimercati@pirelli.com](mailto:sara.vimercati@pirelli.com)

Pirelli Tyre Press Office • +39 02 6442 4270  
[pressoffice@pirelli.com](mailto:pressoffice@pirelli.com)