

MERCEDES DRIVER LEWIS HAMILTON CLAIMS POLE POSITION ON SUPERSOFT IN MIXED CONDITIONS: WARMER WEATHER EXPECTED TOMORROW

ONLY FERRARI WILL START THE RACE ON THE SOFT COMPOUND AFTER USING IT TO SET THEIR FASTEST TIMES IN Q2

SOFT-MEDIUM ONE-STOPPER LIKELY TO BE FASTEST BUT STRATEGY CAN BE AFFECTED BY WARMER CONDITIONS

Interlagos, November 10, 2018 – Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton took pole position in Interlagos, setting a new track record, after going fastest on the supersoft in Q3. Qualifying was held in mixed conditions, with some rain beginning to fall at the end of Q1 and persisting until the end, which affected grip throughout qualifying.

While all the drivers used the supersoft to get through Q1, the Ferrari, Mercedes and Red Bull drivers selected the soft compound to try and get through Q2. However, only the Ferrari drivers set their quickest Q2 times on the soft, which means that they will be the only drivers in the top 10 to start on this compound tomorrow, when the weather is expected to be warmer. In which case, the fastest strategy should be a one-stopper, from soft to medium, with a two-stopper possible as well. However, if the weather is cooler – similar to yesterday – a different one-stop strategy would be quickest.

Hamilton was presented with the Pirelli Pole Position Award by Brazil's Felipe Massa: a two-time winner of his home grand prix.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"While qualifying in Brazil is far from being a lottery, you certainly need a bit of luck on your side, both with the weather and the traffic, which were two talking points of qualifying today. The race is expected to be warm and dry, which will mean that we will be running in relatively unfamiliar conditions compared to the rest of the weekend up to now. This will obviously have an impact on the strategy, with a flexible approach that gives a few options perhaps paying dividends. The key to qualifying was Q2: although the top three teams all tried to get through the session on the soft tyre, Ferrari was the only team to commit to this strategy by not setting a time on the supersoft compound – and so was the only team to succeed. As a result, it's going to be interesting to see if this tactic works best for the race tomorrow."

HOW THE TYRES BEHAVED TODAY



WHITE **MEDIUM**

Not seen in qualifying but will probably be needed for a one-stopper.



YELLOW **SOFT**

The top three teams used these in Q2: only Ferrari will start the race on them.



RED **SUPERSOFT**

The fastest tyre by about 0.5 seconds, used for most of qualifying.

FREE PRACTICE 3 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Vettel	1m07.948s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m08.165s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Bottas	1m08.465s	SUPERSOFT NEW

QUALIFYING TOP 10

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m07.281s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Vettel	1m07.374s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Bottas	1m07.441s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m07.456s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m07.778s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m07.780s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Ericsson	1m08.296s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Leclerc	1m08.492s	SUPERSOFT USED
Grosjean	1m08.517s	SUPERSOFT USED
Gasly	1m09.029s	SUPERSOFT USED

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
SUPERSOFT	Magnussen	28
SOFT	Sainz	35
MEDIUM	Raikkonen	25

BEST TIME BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
SUPERSOFT	Hamilton	1m07.281s
SOFT	Vettel	1m07.776s
MEDIUM	Bottas	1m09.668s

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