

VALTTERI BOTTAS GOES FASTEST FOR MERCEDES IN FREE PRACTICE ON SUPERSOFT TYRE: CLOSEST SESSION OF THE 2018 SEASON

CLOUDS AND SUNSHINE SEEN AT INTERLAGOS: SIMILIARLY VARIABLE WEATHER EXPECTED FOR THE REST OF THE WEEKEND

APPROXIMATELY 0.5 SECONDS BETWEEN SUPERSOFT AND SOFT, AROUND ONE SECOND COVERS SUPERSOFT TO MEDIUM

Interlagos, November 9, 2018 – The opening day of action at Interlagos brought exactly what was expected: a bumpy yet clean surface, close gaps between the frontrunners on one of the shortest laps of the year, slippery conditions as the track rubbered in, and weather that alternated between sunshine and clouds.

The short lap also meant that the performance gaps between the compounds were reasonably condensed, with all three tyres run today and assessed using different fuel loads. Valtteri Bottas was fastest for Mercedes by just 0.003 seconds in FP2 – the tightest session of the season – but there was little to choose between the three top teams and the battle seems equally close in the midfield.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

“As usual, it was very close at Interlagos, meaning that just the smallest mistake or adjustment could result in quite a big difference. The same applies to the strategy too, which can make a real difference when everything else is so closely-matched. At the moment, it’s hard to make any predictions about the competitive order here, but the tyres are reacting as we expected them to. We’ve not seen any cases of excessive degradation – only some blistering that didn’t affect performance – even though the lap times are nearly a second faster than their equivalents last year. Teams were using quite varied run plans during both sessions today, so it’s going to be interesting to see whether or not that translates into a few different strategies on Sunday.”

FREE PRACTICE 1 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Verstappen	1m09.011s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Vettel	1m09.060s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m09.107s	SUPERSOFT NEW

FREE PRACTICE 2 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Bottas	1m08.846s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m08.849s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Vettel	1m08.919s	SUPERSOFT NEW

FP1 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
SUPERSOFT	Verstappen	1m09.011s
SOFT	Raikkonen	1m09.573s
MEDIUM	Vandoorne	1m11.452s




FP2 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
SUPERSOFT	Bottas	1m08.846s
SOFT	Hamilton	1m09.245s
MEDIUM	Bottas	1m09.668s

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR



COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
SUPERSOFT	Ocon	30
SOFT	Sainz	35
MEDIUM	Raikkonen	25

TYRE STATISTICS OF THE DAY

			
Kms driven*	698	1986	3037
Sets used overall**	11	28	44

* 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	
	23.0 psi (front) 21.0 psi (rear)	-3.50° (front) -2.00° (rear)	

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