

## VALTTERI BOTTAS FASTEST FOR MERCEDES IN FP2 ON HYPERSOFT AFTER RED BULL COMPLETES A ONE-TWO IN FP1 ON THE SAME COMPOUND

### VERY CLOSE GAPS AMONG THE FRONTRUNNERS AS TEAMS COMPLETE QUALIFYING AND RACE SIMULATIONS

### PERFORMANCE GAP BETWEEN HYPERSOFT AND ULTRASOFT OF MORE THAN ONE SECOND WILL INFLUENCE QUALIFYING TACTICS

*Yas Marina, November 23, 2018* – The P Zero Pink hypersoft made its Abu Dhabi Grand Prix debut in competition, although this is the only circuit where the drivers have tested the softest compound before racing it (at the final official test last year).

There were some very close gaps between the frontrunners – with three-tenths covering the top six in FP2 – at a circuit that was already reasonably rubbered-in following regular use during the year.

Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas set fastest time of the day in FP2 on the hypersoft, despite some front graining throughout the field on this compound, while it was a Red Bull one-two in FP1. The second session was the only one to be representative of qualifying and the race, with track temperatures falling quickly as sundown turned into night.

#### MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

*“With the considerable performance gap of more than a second between the hypersoft and ultrasoft, we’re likely to see most drivers go through Q2 on the pink tyre tomorrow, as it’s a viable race tyre as well. This is a slightly bigger gap than we expected, while the gap of around 0.3 seconds between ultrasoft and supersoft is more in line with our expectations. Beyond that, there were no real surprises today, with the teams concentrating their work on the representative conditions of FP2. The gaps seem really close, so the teams will be studying the data carefully in order to see how strategy can make a difference. Overtaking is never especially easy here, so qualifying will be particularly important.”*

#### FREE PRACTICE 1 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Verstappen	1m38.491s	HYPERSOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m38.945s	HYPERSOFT NEW
Bottas	1m39.452s	SUPERSOFT USED

#### FREE PRACTICE 2 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Bottas	1m37.236s	HYPERSOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m37.280s	HYPERSOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m37.428s	HYPERSOFT NEW

### FP1 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
<b>SUPERSOFT</b>	Bottas	1m39.452s
<b>ULTRASOFT</b>	Hamilton	1m39.543s
<b>HYPERSOFT</b>	Verstappen	1m38.491s




### FP2 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
<b>SUPERSOFT</b>	Hamilton	1m39.083s
<b>ULTRASOFT</b>	Ricciardo	1m38.532s
<b>HYPERSOFT</b>	Bottas	1m37.236s

### MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
<b>SUPERSOFT</b>	Raikkonen	27
<b>ULTRASOFT</b>	Bottas	26
<b>HYPERSOFT</b>	Verstappen	18

### TYRE STATISTICS OF THE DAY

			
Kms driven*	1571	1638	3076
Sets used overall**	15	19	49

\* 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>21.0</b> psi (front)   <b>21.5</b> psi (rear)	<b>-3.50°</b> (front)   <b>-2.00°</b> (rear)	

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