



## JAPANESE GRAND PRIX QUALIFYING

### LEWIS HAMILTON CLAIMS POLE FOR MERCEDES SMASHING SUZUKA ALL-TIME LAP RECORD ON SUPERSOFT

### ALTERNATIVE STRATEGY FOR FERRARI'S KIMI RAIKKONEN AND MERCEDES DRIVER VALTTERI BOTTAS, WHO WILL START THE RACE ON SOFT

### TWO PIT STOPS EXPECTED FOR MOST DRIVERS IN THE 53-LAP RACE TOMORROW, IF IT REMAINS DRY AND WARM

Suzuka, October 7, 2017 - Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton demolished the Suzuka all-time lap record to claim pole position on the supersoft tyre.

Hamilton and Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel were the only two drivers to get through Q1 on the soft tyres only while their team mates, Valtteri Bottas and Kimi Raikkonen, adopted an alternative strategy for Q2. Both set their fastest Q2 times on the soft tyre, which they will begin the race on tomorrow. However, Bottas and Raikkonen are among several drivers to have collected grid penalties, so they will start further back tomorrow.

With today's dry weather expected to remain tomorrow, two pit stops should be the optimal strategy. However, there is always the possibility of a safety car to disrupt the strategy in Suzuka, with red flags seen in free practice as well as during Q1.

### MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

*"Hamilton's remarkable lap, which obliterates the previous all-time Suzuka record, has underlined the pace of the latest-generation Formula 1 car and tyres, even though preparation for the race has been interrupted by weather and red flags up until now. Pole this year was in fact 3.3 seconds faster than 2016, with the tyres performing perfectly. We would expect two pit stops for most drivers in the race tomorrow, as this is one of the circuits that takes the most energy out of the tyres of the entire year. Already we've seen some tactics in qualifying, with two of the drivers carrying grid penalties opting to start on the soft tyres. This should allow them to gain track position by running a longer first stint than their direct rivals. Last weekend in Malaysia proved that, with the right strategy, it's still possible to get a good result even starting from the back."*

### HOW THE TYRES BEHAVED TODAY



**RED SUPERSOFT**

All the drivers in the top 10 grid positions will start on this tyre, except for Bottas.



**YELLOW SOFT**

Bottas and Raikkonen were the only drivers to use this tyre in Q2.



**WHITE MEDIUM**

Seen only at the beginning of FP3 today for installation laps.



## FREE PRACTICE 3 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Bottas	1m29.055s	<b>SOFT NEW</b>
Hamilton	1m29.069s	<b>SOFT NEW</b>
Vettel	1m29.379s	<b>SUPERSOFT USED</b>

## QUALIFYING TOP 10

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m27.319s	<b>SUPERSOFT NEW</b>
Bottas	1m27.651s	<b>SUPERSOFT NEW</b>
Vettel	1m27.791s	<b>SUPERSOFT NEW</b>
Ricciardo	1m28.306s	<b>SUPERSOFT NEW</b>
Verstappen	1m28.332s	<b>SUPERSOFT NEW</b>
Raikkonen	1m28.498s	<b>SUPERSOFT NEW</b>
Ocon	1m29.111s	<b>SUPERSOFT NEW</b>
Perez	1m29.260s	<b>SUPERSOFT NEW</b>
Massa	1m29.480s	<b>SUPERSOFT NEW</b>
Alonso	1m30.687s	<b>SUPERSOFT NEW</b>

## MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Alonso, Grosjean, Magnussen	3
<b>SOFT</b>	Perez	18
<b>SUPERSOFT</b>	Raikkonen	19
<b>WET</b>	Hamilton, Stroll	4



## BEST TIME BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
MEDIUM	-	-
SOFT	Bottas	1m28.543s
SUPERSOFT	Hamilton	1m27.319s
WET	Hamilton	1m48.719s

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[Racingspot.pirelli.com](http://Racingspot.pirelli.com)

#### For further information please contact

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

Maria Stella Narciso • +39 338 942 3585 • [mariastella.narciso@pirelli.com](mailto:mariastella.narciso@pirelli.com)

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