

## MERCEDES FASTEST ON SOFT TYRES IN BOTH FREE PRACTICE SESSIONS AS SUPERSOFT MAKES ITS SPANISH GP DEBUT

**NO BLISTERING SEEN IN THE WARM CONDITIONS, WITH WEAR  
AND DEGRADATION HARD TO PREDICT ON THE VARIABLE NEW ASPHALT**

**APPROXIMATE PERFORMANCE GAPS BETWEEN COMPOUNDS: 0.4 SECONDS  
FROM SUPERSOFT TO SOFT, AND 0.7 SECONDS FROM SOFT TO MEDIUM**

*Barcelona, May 11, 2018* – Teams got to grips with the resurfaced Barcelona circuit during a race weekend for the first time during free practice, with track temperatures of 32 degrees in FP1 and 36 degrees in FP2. Mercedes was in front after both sessions, using the soft tyres on each occasion.

While today's times were much faster than last year's equivalent, nobody has yet beaten the best time of 1m17.182s set in pre-season testing on the hypersoft.

The performance gap between supersoft to soft is currently around 0.4 seconds while it's roughly double that between soft and medium: approximately 0.7 seconds. This offers quite a wide variety of strategic combinations.

### MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

*"There were no real surprises from our point of view in free practice, as we made a number of track measurements before the start of the weekend that gave us some indications of what to expect. The tyres all have a tread that is 0.4 millimetres thinner than before to avoid overheating and blistering here, and so far, we have seen that this has worked, without compromising tyre life either as degradation here on the new surface is quite low anyway. The track has been used a lot since the new asphalt was laid and it's lost a bit of the sticky surface bitumen, which means that grip levels have been more variable than before. Today, drivers have also been affected by the wind altering the aerodynamic balance, as is often the case here, which made it difficult to find the right braking point; but in the end the gaps at the top are quite close."*

### FREE PRACTICE 1 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Bottas	1m18.148s	SOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m18.997s	SOFT NEW
Vettel	1m19.098s	SUPERSOFT USED

### FREE PRACTICE 2 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m18.259s	SOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m18.392s	SOFT USED
Verstappen	1m18.533s	SUPERSOFT NEW

### FP1 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
MEDIUM	Verstappen	1m19.187s
SOFT	Bottas	1m18.148s
SUPERSOFT	Vettel	1m19.098s




### FP2 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
MEDIUM	Bottas	1m18.882s
SOFT	Hamilton	1m18.259s
SUPERSOFT	Verstappen	1m18.533s

### MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR


COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
MEDIUM	Hulkenberg	31
SOFT	Ericsson	31
SUPERSOFT	Sirotkin, Verstappen, Vettel	20

### TYRE STATISTICS OF THE DAY

			
Kms driven*	1545	2099	1800
Sets used overall**	31	30	29

\* 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	
	22.0 psi (front)   20.5 psi (rear)	-3.25° (front)   -1.75° (rear)	

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