

**AROUND 0.5 SECONDS SEPARATE MEDIUM TO SOFT
0.7 SECONDS FROM SOFT TO SUPERSOFT**

**ALL THREE COMPOUNDS PERFORM STRONGLY AT A DRY SUZUKA
AS LEWIS HAMILTON GOES FASTEST ON SUPERSOFT**

**TEAMS COLLECT USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT LATEST TRACK SURFACE
CONDITIONS, USING DIFFERENT TYRES AND FUEL LOADS**

Suzuka, October 5, 2018 – Contrary to the weather forecast, conditions remained dry for free practice in Suzuka, with all three slick tyres performing strongly and Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton going quickest on the supersoft: outpacing last year's practice times in cool conditions.

The track surface proved to be a bit more aggressive this year than expected, possibly due to recent typhoons having cleaned the surface. This may accelerate tyre wear and degradation, with teams carrying out track assessments in free practice over all three compounds on different fuel loads. A few cases of blistering were noted in free practice, but this affected only a small number of drivers.

The work carried out in free practice will be particularly important if it rains tomorrow as expected, limiting dry running. Sunday's race is nonetheless expected to be dry and warmer than today.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"The teams benefitted from unexpectedly dry weather to gather plenty of information about all three compounds here, on a slightly more aggressive surface than generally anticipated, with each tyre potentially forming part of a viable race strategy for Sunday. This obviously includes the supersoft, with the softest choice in Japan this weekend being far less extreme than the hypersoft tyre nominated at the last two races. This means that there will be a different approach to strategy and tyre choices, when it comes to qualifying as well, as already seen by the quite mixed choices made by different teams in their tyre selections for the grand prix here. There are still some question marks to consider – especially if Sunday's race conditions turn out to be quite different to today or tomorrow – so it's hard to make any more detailed predictions for now."

FREE PRACTICE 1 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m28.691s	SOFT NEW
Bottas	1m29.137s	MEDIUM NEW
Ricciardo	1m29.373s	SUPERSOFT NEW

FREE PRACTICE 2 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m28.217s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Bottas	1m28.678s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Vettel	1m29.050s	SUPERSOFT NEW

FP1 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
MEDIUM	Bottas	1m29.137s
SOFT	Hamilton	1m28.691s
SUPERSOFT	Ricciardo	1m29.373s




FP2 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
MEDIUM	Ocon	1m31.130s
SOFT	Hamilton	1m28.911s
SUPERSOFT	Hamilton	1m28.217s

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR


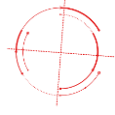
COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
MEDIUM	Sirotkin	25
SOFT	Stroll	25
SUPERSOFT	Sirotkin	24

TYRE STATISTICS OF THE DAY

			
Kms driven*	1178	2473	2793
Sets used overall**	14	29	36

* 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)	-3.00° (front) -1.75° (rear)	

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