

Friday 30 June 2023

### **Martins runs the show from start to finish in Spielberg**

Victor Martins threw down the gauntlet early on in Qualifying around the Red Bull Ring on his way to a second Formula 2 pole position of his rookie campaign.

The ART Grand Prix driver led from his first flying lap, improving to a 1:14.643 on his third attempt to retain the top spot. Championship contenders Frederik Vesti and Théo Pourchaire ultimately had to settle for second and third, respectively.

Heading the field out of the pits, Roman Stanek was the first driver to take a turn in the top spot, before Vesti put himself ahead with a 1:15.134. Pourchaire attempted to better his title rival but had to slot into second behind the Dane.

The pair were then swiftly usurped by a charging Martins, as the Frenchman became the first to break into the 1:14s. Meanwhile, Practice pace-setter Fittipaldi looked to continue that form as he moved up into second, before a track limits violation demoted the Rodin Carlin driver to the bottom of the timing sheets.

He wasn't the only one to fall foul of track limits and get bumped down. Jack Doohan's second attempt put him up into third before the Australian slipped down to fifth, as his Invicta Virtuosi Racing teammate Amaury Cordeel managed to execute a clean lap to rocket up into second, just 0.187s adrift of Martins in the #6 ART Grand Prix car.

After a lengthy stay in the pits, the field immediately scrambled for track position as they headed out with 11 minutes remaining. Several drivers tactically drove through the pits to try to find a spot to take advantage of the tow.

With no time on the board, Fittipaldi immediately set to work, moving back up into second. As the final five minutes ticked down, Martins put together another charge, nailing his lap to improve his previous best by 0.283s.

Vesti tried to wrestle provisional pole away from the Alpine junior, but couldn't quite manage it, ending up a tenth down on Martins. Importantly for his title aspirations, the PREMA Racing driver leapfrogged his nearest rival in the standings, Pourchaire, demoting the Sauber junior to third on the grid.

As the supersoft Pirelli rubber faded away, Fittipaldi attempted two last-gasp shots at pole, but it wasn't to be. He was forced to abandon his first attempt after MP Motorsport's Jehan Daruvala rejoined the track in his path, before losing his second lap to a huge lock up through Turn 3.



# MEDIA RELEASE

With few improvements to be found, nobody could catch the leading trio. Kush Maini bounced back from his Barcelona disappointment to secure fourth for Campos Racing ahead of Doohan and Fittipaldi. Cordeel held on for seventh ahead of Arthur Leclerc and Daruvala.

Qualifying in 10<sup>th</sup>, Hitech Pulse-Eight's Jak Crawford will get Saturday's Sprint Race underway from reverse grid pole when the lights go out at 13:45 local time.

**CONTINUES**

## 2023 FIA FORMULA 2 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 8 QUALIFYING PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	<b>DRIVER</b>	<b>LICENCE</b>	<b>TEAM</b>	<b>LAPTIME</b>
<b>1</b>	Victor Martins	FRA	<b>ART Grand Prix</b>	1:14.643
<b>2</b>	Frederik Vesti	DNK	<b>PREMA Racing</b>	1:14.782
<b>3</b>	Théo Pourchaire	FRA	<b>ART Grand Prix</b>	1:14.813
<b>4</b>	Kush Maini	IND	<b>Campos Racing</b>	1:14.858
<b>5</b>	Jack Doohan	AUS	<b>Invicta Virtuosi Racing</b>	1:14.860
<b>6</b>	Enzo Fittipaldi	BRA	<b>Rodin Carlin</b>	1:14.953
<b>7</b>	Amaury Cordeel	BEL	<b>Invicta Virtuosi Racing</b>	1:14.987
<b>8</b>	Arthur Leclerc	MCO	<b>DAMS</b>	1:15.017
<b>9</b>	Jehan Daruvala	IND	<b>MP Motorsport</b>	1:15.085
<b>10</b>	Jak Crawford	USA	<b>Hitech Pulse-Eight</b>	1:15.087
<b>11</b>	Richard Verschoor	NLD	<b>Van Amersfoort Racing</b>	1:15.128
<b>12</b>	Juan Manuel Correa	USA	<b>Van Amersfoort Racing</b>	1:15.203
<b>13</b>	Dennis Hauger	NOR	<b>MP Motorsport</b>	1:15.237
<b>14</b>	Roy Nissany	ISR	<b>PHM Racing by Charouz</b>	1:15.244
<b>15</b>	Zane Maloney	BRB	<b>Rodin Carlin</b>	1:15.374
<b>16</b>	Ayumu Iwasa	JPN	<b>DAMS</b>	1:15.469
<b>17</b>	Roman Staněk	CZE	<b>Trident</b>	1:15.502
<b>18</b>	Brad Benavides	USA	<b>PHM Racing by Charouz</b>	1:15.650
<b>19</b>	Oliver Bearman	GBR	<b>PREMA Racing</b>	1:15.690
<b>20</b>	Clément Novalak	FRA	<b>Trident</b>	1:15.702
<b>21</b>	Isack Hadjar	FRA	<b>Hitech Pulse-Eight</b>	1:15.808
<b>22</b>	Ralph Boschung	CHE	<b>Campos Racing</b>	1:15.828

**ENDS**

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