



# Race Preview

## 2015 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX 23-25 October 2015

After a sequence of flyaway races travelling East, teams and drivers head West this week, to Austin, Texas and the Circuit of the Americas, home to Round 16 of the 2015 FIA Formula One World Championship: the United States Grand Prix.

Despite this being only the fourth grand prix at COTA, the track on the outskirts of the Texan state capital has already established a reputation as a favourite circuit for both drivers and spectators. The exciting layout offers extreme contours and wide entries, providing multiple lines into several corners, making it one of the more overtaking-friendly venues on the calendar.

The lap has contrasting halves. From Turn Two to Turn 10 it demands high speed and rapid changes of direction, reminiscent of the first sector at Suzuka or the Maggotts-Becketts-Chapel complex at Silverstone. The end of the lap, from Turn 12 onwards, features low-speed combinations of mainly second-gear corners. The long back straight, however, ensures teams won't run maximum downforce. They'll be keen to retain enough speed to attack – or defend – into Turn 12. It, along with Turns One and 11, offers good passing opportunities.

Mercedes secured the Constructors' Championship at the Russian Grand Prix in Sochi last time out, leaving attention firmly focused on the race for drivers' honours. Reigning World Champion Lewis Hamilton can claim a third World Championship crown this weekend, though he requires a small amount of assistance from team-mate Nico Rosberg and Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel – the two drivers that can still catch him. Should Hamilton triumph, he will become the first driver to clinch the title at the US Grand Prix since Niki Lauda – non-executive chairman of the Mercedes team for which Hamilton drives – did so in 1977.



### CIRCUIT DATA

#### CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS

**Length of lap:** 5.513km

**Lap record:** 1:39.347 (Sebastian Vettel, Red Bull Racing, 2012)

**Start line/finish line offset:** 0.323km

**Total number of race laps:** 56

**Total race distance:** 308.405km

**Pitlane speed limits:** 80km/h in practice, qualifying, and the race

### CIRCUIT NOTES

- ▶ Artificial grass was been removed from the exits of Turns One, 11, 12, 15 and 20. It has been replaced by 50mm-high speed bumps at 90° to the track.
- ▶ Artificial grass has been removed from behind all entry, apex and exit kerbs at Turns Two, Six, Seven, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 18.
- ▶ Artificial grass has been renewed behind the kerbs at Turns Nine and 19.

### DRS ZONE

- ▶ There will be two DRS zones at COTA. The detection point of the first will be 150m after Turn 10, with the activation point 320m after Turn 11. The second zone's detection point will be 65m after Turn 18, with the activation point 80m after Turn 20, on the start/finish straight.

<b>ROUND 16</b>	<b>UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX</b>	<b>START TIME</b>	14:00 Local - 19:00 GMT
<b>RACE DATE:</b>	25 OCT 2015	<b>CIRCUIT LENGTH:</b>	5.513KM
<b>CIRCUIT NAME:</b>	CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS	<b>RACE DISTANCE:</b>	308.405KM
<b>NUMBER OF LAPS:</b>	56	<b>LAP RECORD:</b>	1:39.347 - S Vettel [2012]

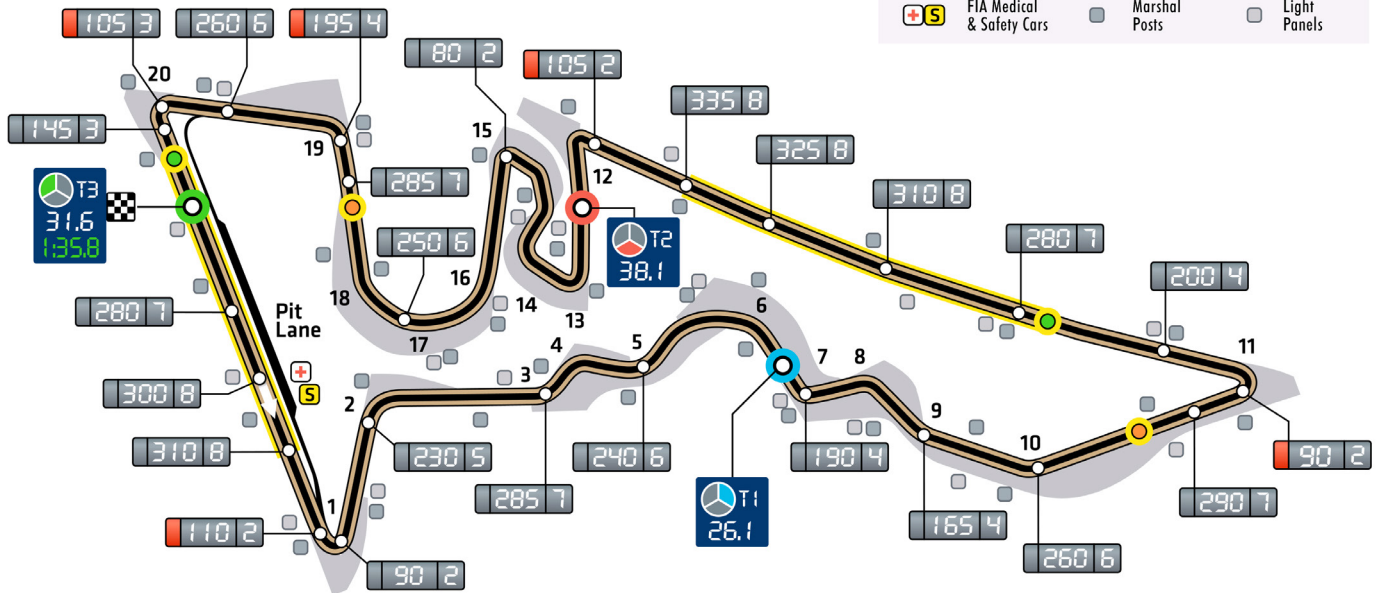
**KEY**

Speed Kmh  
Braking 105.2 Gear

Sector Time T3 31.6 Lap Time 1:35.8

Timing Sector  
Lap Time

● Sector 1    ● Sector 2    ● Sector 3  
 Circuit     Start     Finish  
 DRS Detection     DRS Activation     Run-off Areas  
 FIA Medical & Safety Cars     Marshal Posts     Light Panels



## FAST FACTS

- ▶ This is the fourth United States Grand Prix at the Circuit of the Americas. Lewis Hamilton has two victories, winning for McLaren in 2012 and Mercedes last season. Sebastian Vettel took victory in 2013. Vettel won from pole. Both of Hamilton's victories came from P2.
- ▶ Hamilton has won the US Grand Prix at two venues. In 2007, his rookie year, he won the final USGP at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Despite the race having been held at six venues, he is the only driver with this distinction.
- ▶ Those six venues are: Sebring (1959), Riverside (1960), Watkins Glen (1961-'80), Phoenix (1989-'91), Indianapolis (2000-'07) and finally COTA (2012-).
- ▶ The United States Grand Prix has seen the Drivers' Championship clinched on four previous occasions. Jack Brabham took his first title at the inaugural USGP in 1959. Jochen Rindt became F1's only posthumous world champion when title rival Jacky Ickx finished only fourth in 1970. Emerson Fittipaldi in 1974 and Niki Lauda in 1977 both added their second world titles at the USGP. Nelson Piquet and Keke Rosberg in 1981 and 1982 respectively, both became world champions on US soil – though both claimed their titles at the Las Vegas Grand Prix.
- ▶ The Las Vegas Grand Prix, also known as the Caesar's Palace Grand Prix is one of five F1 World Championship grands prix held in the US but not given the title US Grand Prix – usually because they were a second or third race in the USA that season. There is also the United States Grand Prix West (1976-1983), held in Long Beach, the Detroit Grand Prix (1982-88) and the Dallas Grand Prix (1984). The Indy 500 was also classed as a (largely honorific) round of the World Championship between 1950 and 1960.
- ▶ Alexander Rossi is the only American driver taking part in his home grand prix. The Californian is the first American to race in F1 since Scott Speed. Speed raced in 2006 and 2007 for Scuderia Toro Rosso. He took part in the United States Grand Prix both years with a best result of 13th.
- ▶ Rubens Barrichello won the 2002 USGP by a margin of 0.011 seconds from Michael Schumacher in a Ferrari formation finish. This is potentially the closest finish in F1 history. Peter Gethin's advantage over Ronnie Peterson at the 1971 Italian Grand Prix is given as 0.01s. The change from two to three decimal places in the timing regime makes it impossible to tell which was closer.
- ▶ With five wins (2000, 2003-'06), Schumacher is the most successful driver in USGP history. Ferrari are the most successful team with nine wins.
- ▶ There are no official records for pit stop times but the 1.923s stationary time for Red Bull Racing's Mark Webber at the USGP in 2013 is accepted as being the fastest pit stop in history, breaking Red Bull and Webber's own record of 2.05s, set earlier in 2013 at the Malaysian Grand Prix.
- ▶ Hamilton can secure his third Drivers' World Championship title this weekend. The Briton is 66 points ahead of Vettel and 73 points ahead of Nico Rosberg. Hamilton needs to leave Austin with a lead of 75 points. There are many permutations but the most basic is that victory for Hamilton will suffice unless Vettel finishes second.

# RACE STEWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

## DR GERD ENNSER

### **MEMBER OF THE DMSB'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR AUTOMOBILE SPORT, FORMULA ONE AND DTM STEWARD**

Dr Gerd Ennser has successfully combined his formal education in law with his passion for motor racing. While still active as a racing driver he began helping out with the management of his local motor sport club and since 2006 has been a permanent steward at every round of Germany's DTM championship. Since 2010 he has also been a Formula One steward. Dr Ennser, who has worked as a judge, a prosecutor and in the legal department of an automotive-industry company, has also acted as a member of the steering committee of German motor sport body, the DMSB, since spring 2010, where he is responsible for automobile sport. In addition, Dr Ennser is a board member of the South Bavaria Section of ADAC, Germany's biggest auto club.



## NISH SHETY

### **FIA STEWARD AND MEMBER OF THE FIA INTERNATIONAL COURT OF APPEAL**

Nish Shetty sits on the FIA International Court of Appeal as a judge and is a permanent member of the National Court of Appeal (Singapore). He is also Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission of the Singapore Motor Sports Association and a national steward of the Singapore Grand Prix. Shetty has assisted the Singapore Motor Sports Association for many years as a legal advisor and committee member. In addition to being involved in the Singapore Grand Prix, Shetty has acted as a steward in the Singapore Karting Championship. Away from motor sport, he is a Partner and Head of International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, South East Asia at global law firm Clifford Chance.



## TOM KRISTENSEN

### **NINE TIMES LE MANS WINNER, GERMAN F3 CHAMPION (1991), JAPANESE F3 CHAMPION (1993) ALMS CHAMPION (2001)**

Denmark's Tom Kristensen is the most successful driver in the history of the Le Mans 24-Hour race having won the endurance event nine times before retiring from competition in November 2014. Kristensen's outstanding career saw him race in single-seaters, touring cars as well as testing in Formula One. However, it is for his achievements in sportscars that he is correctly most lauded. Kristensen's first Le Mans win came in 1997, driving for the Joest Racing team. After two years competing with BMW, he rejoined Joest, now racing as Audi Sport Team Joest, in 2000, winning three Le Mans 24-Hours in succession with the team. He won again with Bentley in 2003 before returning to the wheel of Audi machines to win in 2004-'05, 2008 and 2013. In 2013 he also won the FIA World Endurance Championship title.



# 2015 FIA Formula One World Championship

## DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

	AUSTRALIA	MALAYSIA	CHINA	BAHRAIN	SPAIN	MONACO	CANADA	AUSTRIA	GB	HUNGARY	BELGIUM	ITALY	SINGAPORE	JAPAN	RUSSIA	USA	MEXICO	BRAZIL	ABU DHABI	POINTS
1. Lewis Hamilton	25	18	25	25	18	15	25	18	25	8	25	25	0	25	25	--	--	--	--	302
2. Sebastian Vettel	15	25	15	10	15	18	10	12	15	25	0	18	25	15	18	--	--	--	--	236
3. Nico Rosberg	18	15	18	15	25	25	18	25	18	4	18	0	12	18	0	--	--	--	--	229
4. Kimi Räikkönen	0	12	12	18	10	8	12	0	4	0	6	10	15	12	4	--	--	--	--	123
5. Valtteri Bottas	--	10	8	12	12	0	15	10	10	0	2	12	10	10	0	--	--	--	--	111
6. Felipe Massa	12	8	10	1	8	0	8	15	12	0	8	15	0	0	12	--	--	--	--	109
7. Daniil Kvyat	--	2	0	2	1	12	2	0	8	18	12	1	8	0	10	--	--	--	--	76
8. Daniel Ricciardo	8	1	2	8	6	10	0	1	0	15	0	4	18	0	0	--	--	--	--	73
9. Sergio Pérez	1	0	0	4	0	6	0	2	2	0	10	8	6	0	15	--	--	--	--	54
10. Romain Grosjean	0	0	6	6	4	0	1	0	0	6	15	0	0	6	0	--	--	--	--	44
11. Nico Hülkenberg	6	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	6	0	0	6	0	8	0	--	--	--	--	38
12. Max Verstappen	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	12	4	0	4	2	1	--	--	--	--	33
13. Felipe Nasr	10	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	--	--	--	--	25
14. Pastor Maldonado	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	--	--	--	--	22
15. Carlos Sainz	2	4	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	--	--	--	--	12
16. Fernando Alonso	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	11
17. Marcus Ericsson	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	9
18. Jenson Button	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	--	--	--	--	8
19. Roberto Merhi	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	0	--	--	--	--	0
20. Will Stevens	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	0
21. Alexander Rossi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	0

# 2015 FIA Formula One World Championship

## CONSTRUCTORS' CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

	AUSTRALIA	MALAYSIA	CHINA	BAHRAIN	SPAIN	MONACO	CANADA	AUSTRIA	GB	HUNGARY	BELGIUM	ITALY	SINGAPORE	JAPAN	RUSSIA	USA	MEXICO	BRAZIL	ABU DHABI	POINTS
<b>1. Mercedes AMG Petronas</b>	43	33	43	40	43	40	43	43	43	12	43	25	12	43	25	--	--	--	--	<b>531</b>
<b>2. Scuderia Ferrari</b>	15	37	27	28	25	26	22	12	19	25	6	28	40	27	22	--	--	--	--	<b>359</b>
<b>3. Williams Martini Racing</b>	12	18	18	13	20	0	23	25	22	0	10	27	10	10	12	--	--	--	--	<b>220</b>
<b>4. Infiniti Red Bull Racing</b>	8	3	2	10	7	22	2	1	8	33	12	5	26	0	10	--	--	--	--	<b>149</b>
<b>5. Sahara Force India F1 Team</b>	7	0	0	4	0	6	4	10	8	0	10	14	6	8	15	--	--	--	--	<b>92</b>
<b>6. Lotus F1 Team</b>	0	0	6	6	4	0	7	6	0	6	15	0	0	10	6	--	--	--	--	<b>66</b>
<b>7. Scuderia Toro Rosso</b>	2	10	0	0	2	1	0	4	0	12	4	0	6	3	1	--	--	--	--	<b>45</b>
<b>8. Sauber F1 Team</b>	14	0	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	8	--	--	--	--	<b>34</b>
<b>9. McLaren Honda</b>	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	12	0	0	0	0	2	--	--	--	--	<b>19</b>
<b>10. Manor Marussia F1 Team</b>	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	<b>0</b>

# FORMULA ONE TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY

**Press conference** 11.00

## FRIDAY

**Practice session 1** 10.00-11.30

**Practice session 2** 14.00-15.30

**Press conference** 16.00

## SATURDAY

**Practice session 3** 10.00-11.00

**Qualifying** 13.00-14.00

Followed by unilateral and press conference

## SUNDAY

**Drivers' Parade** 12.30

**Race** 14.00

Followed by podium interviews and press conference

## ADDITIONAL MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

### QUALIFYING

All drivers eliminated in Q1 or Q2 are available for media interviews immediately after the end of each session, as are drivers who participated in Q3, but who are not required for the postqualifying press conference. The interview pen will be located in front of the media centre entrance.

### RACE

Any driver retiring before the end of the race will be made available at the TV pen interview area. In addition, during the race every team will make available at least one senior spokesperson for interview by officially accredited TV crews. A list of those nominated will be made available in the media centre.

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