



Race Preview

2016 RUSSIAN GRAND PRIX

29 April- 1 May 2016

Just 28 weeks after its last visit to Sochi, Formula One is back in the Black Sea resort for round four of the 2016 FIA Formula One World Championship, the Russian Grand Prix.

The Sochi Autodrom blurs the boundaries between street and permanent circuits, winding its way through the region's Olympic Park on a mix of public roads and dedicated sections of track. The circuit is wide and features low kerbs, encouraging high speeds and an attacking line largely at odds with traditional street circuits. Continuing the theme of duality it manages to be both a highly technical circuit where precision of line is vital but also a power track with top speeds approaching 350kmh and full throttle for around 60 per cent of the lap. As a test of the car, Sochi is relatively stern, with engine, ERS and brakes all pushed hard. In aerodynamic terms, Sochi is a medium-high downforce track.

For the fourth consecutive race Pirelli bring the medium, soft and supersoft compounds. Given Sochi's reputation as a circuit with minimal degradation it is unsurprising that very few medium tyres have been requested: only the Manor drivers have two sets available; everyone else has stuck to the mandatory minimum. At the other end of the scale both Red Bull and Haas have been aggressive with their choice, giving both drivers 10 sets of the supersoft. The addition of the supersoft, plus the move from autumn to spring, present new challenges at a circuit that hasn't previously delivered many surprises.

Mercedes' Nico Rosberg goes into the Russian Grand Prix having started the season with three victories from three – a feat not seen since 2004 when Michael Schumacher won the first five for Ferrari. Mercedes team-mate and nearest rival Lewis Hamilton, however, has endured some misfortune in the opening month of the season and looks more like a man out of luck rather than one out of form. His losing streak surely has to end soon.



CIRCUIT DATA SOCHI AUTODROM

Length of lap: 5.848km

Lap record: 1:40.071 (Sebastian Vettel, Ferrari, 2015)

Start line/finish line offset: 0.199km

Total number of race laps: 53

Total race distance: 309.745km

Pitlane speed limits: 60km/h in practice, qualifying, and the race

CIRCUIT NOTES

- ▶ Drainage has been improved in Turn One. Following the corner, openings on both sides have been re-aligned in order to reduce the angle of the wall to the track. The wall downstream of the opening on the left after T1 has been moved further from the track.
- ▶ The areas where TecPro barriers and guardrails are situated straight on at Turns Two and 13 have been laid with asphalt. A 25mm negative kerb with artificial grass behind has been installed on the right after the exit of Turn Two.
- ▶ An additional combination kerb element has been installed behind the existing kerb on the apex of Turn 16. This new element is 50mm higher than the existing kerb and approx 3m x 1m.
- ▶ The guardrail straight on at T13 has been replaced by wall blocks.

DRS ZONE

- ▶ The first of two DRS zones has its detection point 138m before T1. Activation is in line with the corner apex. Zone Two's detection is 72m before T10, with activation 230m after the corner.

ROUND 04	RUSSIAN GRAND PRIX	START TIME	15:00 Local - 12:00 GMT
RACE DATE:	01 MAY 2016	CIRCUIT LENGTH:	5.848KM
CIRCUIT NAME:	SOCHI AUTODROM	RACE DISTANCE:	309.745KM
NUMBER OF LAPS:	53	LAP RECORD:	1:40.071 - S. Vettel [2015]

KEY

Speed Kmh
Braking 135.4 Gear

Timing Sector
Sector Time T3 29.0
Lap Time 1:37.1

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

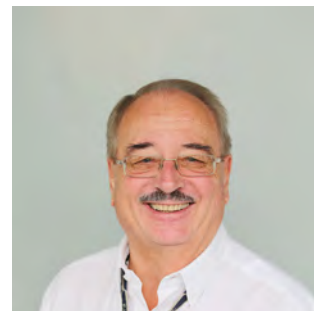
- ▶ This is the third Formula One Russian Grand Prix. The races in 2014 and 2015 were both won by Lewis Hamilton for Mercedes. Hamilton won from pole in 2014 and P2 in 2015 when team-mate Nico Rosberg qualified in P1.
- ▶ Having started seventh in 2015, Force India's Sergio Pérez finished the race third – the furthest back a podium finisher has started in Sochi.
- ▶ Rosberg comes to Sochi having won six consecutive races. Michael Schumacher has a string of six and another of seven. At the top of the list are Sebastian Vettel and (discounting the Indy500) Alberto Ascari with strings of nine.
- ▶ The Chinese Grand Prix saw Rosberg take his 10th victory from pole. He is now joint tenth on the all-time list for this particular achievement, tied with Mika Häkkinen. Schumacher tops the list with 40 wins from pole position.
- ▶ One unwanted record for Rosberg: China was his 17th Formula One victory, overtaking Stirling Moss as the most successful driver without a world championship to his name. Nigel Mansell became World Champion shortly after his 29th win. At the other end of the scale, Nico's father Keke holds the record for the fewest victories before becoming World Champion, having just one win to his name when he was crowned.
- ▶ Before the outbreak of the First World War, two Russian Grands Prix were held in Saint Petersburg. Georgy Suvorin won in 1913 and Willy Scholl in 2014. Both were driving for Benz – thus the modern Mercedes-Benz can claim a clean sweep of victories in Russia. They also clinched the Constructors' Championship at Sochi in both 2014 and 2015.
- ▶ Three of the four engine manufacturers were present on the podium in China, with Mercedes, winning, Ferrari second and Renault third. This is only the second time that has happened in the hybrid era: the only other occasion was the 2014 Hungarian Grand Prix where the order was reversed.
- ▶ Emphasising the low degradation in Sochi, every finisher in 2014 set his personal best in the last 10 laps of the race. In 2015 Max Verstappen was the only exception. Verstappen is the only driver to score in Russia from a two-stop strategy. The other 19 points positions have gone to one-stoppers.
- ▶ Of the three rookies taking part this weekend, Pascal Wehrlein is the only one racing in Sochi for the first time. Rio Haryanto took part in 2014 and 2015's brace of GP2 races, failing to score in 2014 but finishing fifth in the 2015 feature race and second in the sprint. Jolyon Palmer won the feature race in 2014 and in doing so took the GP2 title. He drove for Lotus in FP1 last year.
- ▶ Daniil (Dany) Vyacheslavovich Kvyat follows Vitaly Petrov as the second Russian to race in the Formula One World Championship. Racing for Toro Rosso he finished 14th in the inaugural Russian Grand Prix. Last year for Red Bull Racing he finished fifth, his team's best result at the Sochi Autodrom.

RACE STEWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

PAUL GUTJAHR

PRESIDENT OF THE FIA HILL CLIMB COMMISSION, BOARD MEMBER AND PRESIDENT OF AUTO SPORT SUISSE SARL

Paul Gutjahr started racing in the late 1960s with Alfa Romeo, Lancia, Lotus and Porsche, then March in Formula 3. In the early '70s he became President of the Automobile Club Berne and organised numerous events. He acted as President of the organising committee of the Swiss GP at Dijon between 1980-82. Between 1980-2005 he acted as President of the Commission Sportive Nationale de l'Automobile Club de Suisse and in 2005 he became President and board member of the Auto Sport Suisse motor sports club. Gutjahr is President of the Alliance of European Hill Climb Organisers and has been steward at various high-level international competitions. He was the Formula 3000 Sporting Commissioner and has been a Formula One steward since 1995.



NISH SHETTY

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.



EMANUELE PIRRO

FORMER FORMULA ONE DRIVER AND FIVE-TIMES LE MANS WINNER

During a motor sport career spanning almost 40 years, Emanuele Pirro has achieved a huge amount of success, most notably in sportscar racing, with five Le Mans wins, victory at the Daytona 24 Hours and two wins at the Sebring 12 Hours. In addition, the Italian driver has won the German and Italian Touring Car championships (the latter twice) and has twice been American Le Mans Series Champion. Pirro, enjoyed a three-season F1 career from 1989 to 1991, firstly with Benetton and then for Scuderia Italia. His debut as an FIA Steward came at the 2010 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix and he has returned regularly since.



FORMULA ONE TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Press conference 15.00

FRIDAY

Practice session 1 10.00-11.30

Practice session 2 14.00-15.30

Press conference 16.00

SATURDAY

Practice session 3 12.00-13.00

Qualifying 15.00-16.00

Followed by unilateral and press conference

SUNDAY

Drivers' Parade 13.30

Race 15.00

Followed by podium interviews and press conference

ADDITIONAL MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

QUALIFYING

All drivers eliminated in Q1 or Q2 will be available for media interviews immediately after the end of each session, as will drivers who participated in Q3, but who are not required for the post-qualifying press conference. The TV Pen is located in the paddock in front of the FIA garages.

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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