

PRIVIEW



ROUND I **I**SAKHIR BAHRAIN



ALL TIMES LOCAL GMT +3
FRIDAY

18 MARCH

11:25
Free Practice

16:25Qualifying Session

30 min.

45 min.

17:30

Press Conference*

*Note: You can join the Press Conference via Zoom upon request.

SATURDAY 19 MARCH

12:45Sprint Race

20 Laps

40 min. +1 Lap

Grid set by reversing Top 12 of Qualifying Results

14:10

Press Conference*

SUNDAY

20 MARCH

11:45
Feature Race

24 Laps 45 min. +1 Lap

Grid set by Qualifying Results

THE STORY SO FAR

The FIA Formula 3 Championship officially gets underway at the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir this weekend, one of two new venues featured on the Championship's 18-race, 9-round calendar in 2022. The 30-strong field returns to Sakhir this weekend just a fortnight after preseason testing at the circuit, which saw Hitech Grand Prix rookie Isack Hadjar top the timesheets with the quickest time across all three days of running.





It was Trident newcomer Zane Maloney who finished at the top on the opening day of pre-season testing earlier this month, with the Barbadian driver setting the quickest time of the day during the cooler afternoon stint. Maloney

had also finished in the top two in the morning of Day 1, just 0.013s off PREMA Racing's Arthur Leclerc.

Day 2 saw another rookie shine in the cockpit, with Hadjar setting the quickest time of the day in the morning session to beat out two returnees, ART Grand Prix's Victor Martins and Trident's Jonny Edgar. Despite missing out in the morning session Martins, the highest-placed returning driver from 2021 finished the afternoon session in the lead with Hadjar two places further back in P3.

Red Bull junior Hadjar topped the timesheets for a second successive time on the third day of running, going quickest in the morning session before a sandstorm ultimately hampered the afternoon stint. PREMA's Jak Crawford and ART's Grégoire Saucy finished in second and third, as Hadjar ended the final day with a comfortable 0.381s margin over the pair. Not only was Hadjar's time of 1:47.247 good enough for the best time of the day, but it also saw him go quickest across the entire test.

THE CHALLENGERS

Roman Staněk was one of several returning drivers to impress in pre-season testing, finishing in the top ten in all but one session across the three days of running. The Trident driver finished P2 on the afternoon of Day 2 and then went on to top the timesheets in the afternoon on the final day.

Alpine Academy's Victor Martins was another returning driver to regularly appear in the top half of the leaderboard, finishing in the top ten in four of six sessions and topping the afternoon of the second day. The ART driver's teammate, Grégoire Saucy, also managed to match Martins'

successful run of finishes, posting four top ten times of his own.

Not only did Hitech Grand Prix rookie Hadjar manage to top two successive days, and finish testing with a time more than three tenths quicker than his nearest rival, but similarly to Martins and

Saucy, he also finished in the top ten in all but two sessions.







TRACK DATAS Bahrain International Circuit

5.412 KM

Ö LAP RECORD JEW VENUE

FASTEST LAP 2022 TESTING DAYS

1:42.247 (181.666 KM/H)

Isack Hadjar (Hitech Grand Prix)

COUMPOUND ALLOCATION





ALL TIMES LOCAL GMT +3

SATURDAY 12.45

SPRINT RACE 20 LAPS >> 107.994 KM

40 min. +1 Lap

■ SUNDAY 11.45

FEATURE RACE 24 LAPS >> 129.642 KM

45 min. +1 I an

FROM THE GRID



Victor MARTINS ART Grand Prix

"I am extremely excited to be racing here. It's the first time for me in Bahrain so I don't know the track. It's the first race, it's where you see where you are in the field for the first time. You see what the pace is, so it's exciting. It's also a good place for me because I won the Karting World Championship here in Bahrain six years ago, so it has a lot of good memories for me. I want to do well here again.

There's a lot of hard braking zones here, and that's what I like, when you smash the brakes as late as possible, and you bring the maximum speed into the corner. Then, there are some good sections, like Turn 6 and Turn 7, which are fast corners. What I think is important and quite fun here is the tyre degradation in Sector 3 on a push lap. I really like the whole track to be honest.

For overtaking opportunities, you've got Turn 1 obviously. Also, on the braking zones maybe you can dive from quite far back, but we will have to see. There are also three DRS zones, so you can be guite close to the driver in front, after Turn 3 there is a DRS zone so maybe you can overtake at Turn 4, maybe on the outside, maybe on the inside. I will be watching a few Formula 2 races from the past and learn from them."

TYRE TALK

Mario ISOLA

Pirelli Motorsport Director

"It will be exciting to see a new Formula 3 season starting alongside those of Formula 1 and Formula 2 in Bahrain. This is the first time that the championship will race there, but the data gathered in pre-season testing two weeks ago means that it won't be a complete step into the unknown for the teams or drivers. With all of the F3 sessions taking place during the day, the high temperatures will place considerable demands on the tyres together with the particularly abrasive track surface. This year we are introducing a new rear tyre construction in F3 with the aim of increasing the involvement of the driver and allowing them to demonstrate their talent. In particular, the rear tyres have been designed to degrade faster, which should shift the balance towards oversteer and make the car more challenging to drive."

STAT PACK



Victor Martins is the highest-placed driver returning from the 2021 campaign, having finished 5th in the standings last year.

16 rookies will start the 2022 campaign at the Bahrain International Circuit, joining 14 established Formula 3 names.

The average age on this year's grid is just 19 years old, with Campos Racing's Josep María Martí the youngest driver on the grid at just 16 years old.

Campos also have the youngest driver trio on the grid, with an average age of just 17 years old.





There are already three race winners in this year's lineup, including a pair of two-time race winners, Alexander Smolvar and Arthur Leclerc.



There are also seven podium finishers on this year's grid, who share a collective 21 podiums between them.

An incredible 17 nationalities are represented on this year's grid, including two new nationalities, Malaysian and Barbadian.











2022 STANDINGS

DRIVER STANDINGS

POS.	DRIVER	SPRINTΨ	FEATURE¥	PTS	SHUFFLE
1.					
2.					
3.					
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TEAM STANDINGS

POS.	DRIVER	SPRINT₹	FEATURE₹	PTS	SHUFFLE	
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2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						
8.						
9.						
10.						

MEDIA PLATFORM

The FIA Formula 3 Media Kit and stats sheet are now available via our media platform, along with a selection of driver interviews.

FIA F3 MEDIA ASSETS **CLICK HERE**

	SEAS	SON RECAP		POLE POSITION	SPRINT RACE WINNER Y	FASTEST LAP	FEATURE RACE WINNER Y	FASTEST LAP
1	18-20 March	Sakhir BAHRAIN Bahrain International Circuit		:				
2	22-24 April	Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari	S	:				
3	20-22 May	Barcelona SPAIN Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya	<u>~</u>					
4	01-03 July	Silverstone UNITED KINGDOM Silverstone Circuit		:	:	:	:	:
5	08-10 July	Spielberg AUSTRIA Red Bull Ring	B	:	:	:	:	:
6	29-31 July	Budapest HUNGARY Hungaroring	Ŗ	:	:	:	:	:
7	26-28 August	Spa-Francorchamps BELGIUM Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps		•				
8	02-04 September	Zandvoort NETHERLANDS Circuit Zandvoort		:	:	:	:	:
9	09-11 September	Monza ITALY Autodromo Nazionale Monza						