



MEDIA RELEASE

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Armstrong unbeatable in final Free Practice

Kiwi on form in Sochi, finishing ahead of Shwartzman and Kari

Marcus Armstrong topped the final Free Practice session of the FIA Formula 3 season, ahead of Championship leader Robert Shwartzman. The Russian, who is hoping to wrap up the title this weekend, couldn't quite match his Kiwi teammate, lapping 0.328s behind. The duo finished ahead of Trident's Niko Kari, who scored his best session placing since Round 1.

Lirim Zendeli and Ye Yifei got Free Practice underway on a cool morning in the Black Sea resort. The duo exchanged first and second in the early stages before Pedro Piquet took the times to under 1m 56s.

The PREMAs didn't take long to warm up their tyres and Armstrong quickly seized control of proceedings, slashing the laps down to under 1m 55s, nearly 0.5s ahead of his teammate Shwartzman.

Christian Lundgaard made an attempt to dislodge him from first and briefly claimed P1, before the Kiwi replaced him moments later. The Trident machines were showing early pace, as Niko Kari not only joined Piquet near the top, but went faster. The Finn missed out on P1 by just 0.074s and was backed up by Shwartzman in third.

With five minutes on the clock, the final PREMA, Jehan Daruvala, leapt 10 places from 13th to third to steal the position from Shwartzman, but the Russian's next tour of the Sochi Autodrom proved quicker and pushed the Indian down into fourth.

Determined to lay down a marker ahead of a massive weekend for the Ferrari F1 junior, Shwartzman thundered through a final lap for second place, but still couldn't match his teammate as Armstrong held on to P1.

Kari completed the top three, ahead of Daruvala and Yifei. Zendeli, Lundgaard, Max Fewtrell, Piquet and Jüri Vips completed the top 10. The field return to action in the early afternoon, when Qualifying will take place at 1pm (local time).

2019 FIA Formula 3 Championship Round 8 – Free Practice provisional classification

	DRIVER	TEAM	LAPTIME	LAPS
1	Marcus Armstrong	PREMA Racing	1:53.504	16
2	Robert Shwartzman	PREMA Racing	1:53.832	17
3	Niko Kari	Trident	1:54.052	16
4	Jehan Daruvala	PREMA Racing	1:54.088	16
5	Ye Yifei	Hitech Grand Prix	1:54.158	18
6	Lirim Zendeli	Sauber Junior Team by Charouz	1:54.451	20
7	Christian Lundgaard	ART Grand Prix	1:54.548	15
8	Max Fewtrell	ART Grand Prix	1:54.574	15
9	Pedro Piquet	Trident	1:54.628	18
10	Juri Vips	Hitech Grand Prix	1:54.668	16
11	Raoul Hyman	Sauber Junior Team by Charouz	1:54.778	19
12	Jake Hughes	HWA RACELAB	1:54.785	16
13	Felipe Drugovich	Carlin Buzz Racing	1:54.786	15
14	Leonardo Pulcini	Hitech Grand Prix	1:54.836	16
15	Logan Sargeant	Carlin Buzz Racing	1:54.935	16
16	Devlin DeFrancesco	Trident	1:55.134	19
17	Richard Verschoor	MP Motorsport	1:55.137	18
18	Simo Laaksonen	MP Motorsport	1:55.185	16
19	Bent Viscaal	HWA RACELAB	1:55.230	13
20	David Schumacher	Campos Racing	1:55.258	16
21	Teppei Natori	Carlin Buzz Racing	1:55.303	16
22	Yuki Tsunoda	Jenzer Motorsport	1:55.387	18
23	Sebastian Fernandez	Campos Racing	1:55.414	16
24	Fabio Scherer	Sauber Junior Team by Charouz	1:55.460	17
25	Keyvan Andres	HWA RACELAB	1:55.599	18
26	Alessio Deledda	Campos Racing	1:56.138	19
27	Andreas Estner	Jenzer Motorsport	1:56.177	19

28	Leong Hon Chio	Jenzer Motorsport	1:56.972	19
29	Liam Lawson	MP Motorsport	2:21.088	7



Marcus Armstrong
(PREMA Racing)



2019 FIA Formula 3 -
Round 8 Free Practice
Classification

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