

Minì takes provisional pole position for F3 Macau Grand Prix



Italian Gabriele Minì took provisional pole position for the Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix – FIA F3 World Cup on Thursday after a first qualifying session that featured three red flag stoppages.

The SJM Theodore PREMA Racing driver, who had also been quickest in the morning's free practice session, saved his best effort until the last, as he delivered his best time right at the chequered flag. It was a performance that knocked Williams Academy youngster Luke Browning off the top spot by an impressive 0.497 seconds, with Ferrari Academy driver Dino Beganovic ending up third.

Speaking about his performance, Minì said: "That was quite good! The car was working well and I didn't use any new tyres, so I'm pretty happy with that. But this is only the first step and there is still everything to play for tomorrow."

The 40-minute qualifying session was hit by three separate red flags, which interrupted proceedings and made it harder for drivers to build-up to their best efforts.

The first stoppage came after just seven minutes when Campos Racing's Sebastian Montoya, the son of former Formula 1 driver Juan Pablo, ran off into the barriers at Lisboa corner and damaged his car.

The session got going again for little more than five minutes before a second red flag came out after van Amersfoort Racing's Tommy Smith and Trident's Ugo Ugochukwu ended up down the escape road at Lisboa and officials deemed their cars to be in a dangerous position.

The third red flag came out with just under 16 minutes remaining after Rodin Carlin's Zane Maloney clouted the wall in the Moorish Hill section. The impact badly damaged the left side of his car, and he stopped on track.

Behind the top three of Minì, Browning and Beganovic as lap times tumbled in the final 10 minutes of running, Dennis Hauger ended up fourth fastest on his return to F3 with MP Motorsport. Ireland's Alex Dunne was fifth quickest ahead of Isack Hadjar and IndyCar driver Marcus Armstrong.

Briton Dan Ticktum, who has the chance to become the first driver to win the Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix three times this weekend, finished 10th.

###

Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee
November 16, 2023