

# TUUKKA TAPONEN TAKES FIRST POLE POSITION AT HUNGARORING IN THE WET

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The cars of the **Formula Regional European Championship by Alpine** were met with a wet track at the **Hungaroring**, where rain significantly lowered the high temperatures that have made the over four kilometers of the Hungarian track sizzling in recent days, the stage of the fourth round of the season.

At the track that hosts the Hungarian Formula 1 Grand Prix, it was **Tuukka Taponen (R-ace GP)** who secured his first pole position of the season, clocking the best time of 1'57"184 in Group B during one of the few moments when the rain was less intense. The weather system forced race direction to display the red flag right at the beginning of the first session for several minutes. After the intervention of the marshals who cleared the water from the most critical points, the cars of Group A took to the track, putting on a show thanks to the drivers' skillful control as they literally danced on the wet surface. The first to stand out were the two **Prema Racing** drivers, **Rafael Camara** and **Ugo Ugochukwu**, who alternated at the top of the time sheets. Subsequently, the rookie standings leader **Evan Giltaire (ART Grand Prix)** took center stage as the rain began to fall heavily again. Conditions that did not faze **Alessandro Giusti**, who at the wheel of another ART Grand Prix car took the provisional lead, surpassing his teammate Giltaire. However, the decisive blow was delivered by **Zachary David (R-ace GP)**, who at the end of the session set the best time, leaving behind Giusti and Giltaire in second and third place respectively, and the two Prema Racing cars of Camara and Ugochukwu in fourth and fifth. A great result for the French team's driver who will start on the front row alongside Taponen.

The latter showed excellent pace in Group B, where **Brando Badoer (Van Amersfoort Racing)** also contended for pole position, having been one of the fastest in the early part of the weekend. The Italian driver, who provisionally topped his group's time sheets, eventually finished behind the Ferrari Driver Academy driver, securing a second-row start alongside Giusti. Also noteworthy was Red Bull Academy driver **Enzo Deligny (R-ace GP)**, who set the fourth-fastest time behind compatriot **Enzo Peugeot (Sainteloc Racing)**, who will start on the third row next to Giltaire, while Deligny will be on the fourth row with the seventh fastest time.

The top 5 of the second qualifying session was completed by **James Wharton**, who will start from the fifth row alongside teammate Ugochukwu.

The series will fire up the engines this afternoon at 13:25 for the first race, which will be contested over a distance of 30 minutes plus one lap and will be broadcast live on the championship's official [YouTube](#) channel.

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