

# JAMES WHARTON SECURES HIS SECOND POLE POSITION OF THE SEASON AT ZANDVOORT

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A warm crowd welcomed the 31 single-seaters of the **Formula Regional European Championship by Alpine** as they took to the track this morning at **Zandvoort** for the first qualifying session of the weekend. The circuit, situated on the shores of the North Sea, presented dry conditions with a light rain in the final stages of Group B. Over the 4 km layout of the Dutch circuit, known for its 14 famous banking curves, it was **Prema Racing's James Wharton** who shone, clocking a resounding 1'29"856 to celebrate his second pole position of the year after the one secured in the second official session at Hockenheim. The Australian driver managed to leap to the top of the timing charts on his final lap, surpassing teammate **Rafael Camara** by just 67 thousandths of a second. Camara, the current championship leader, will start from the second row in this afternoon's race.





Zandvoort (NED), JUN 7-9 2024 – Round three of the Formula Regional European Championship by Alpine at Circuit Zandvoort. Tuukka TAPONEN #08, R-ace GP. © 2024 Dutch Photo Agency.

The fastest in Group B, on the other hand, was Ferrari Driver Academy member, **Tuukka Taponen (R-ace GP)**, who had to contend with the equally fast **Alessandro Giusti (ART Grand Prix)**. The Williams Academy driver also showed excellent pace in testing, setting the best time in the second session yesterday. Therefore, Giusti will start from the second row alongside Camara. Equal attention should be paid to **Pedro Clerot**, with the Brazilian driver able to rely on the important support of the home crowd as he drives one of the **Van Amersfoort Racing**'s cars. Clerot managed to secure the third fastest time in his group, just like **Ugo Ugochukwu** (Prema Racing), who was hindered by the light rain in the final stages of qualifying, ending up in the gravel at turn 11 without improving his time. The two drivers will start from the third row.

Eyes are also on two other rookies, **Enzo Deligny** (R-ace GP) and **Evan Giltaire** (ART Grand Prix), ready to start from the fourth row. The top 10 will be completed by **Ivan Domingues** (Van Amersfoort Racing) and **Zachary David** (R-ace GP).

The international series will return to the track this afternoon at 17:45 for the first race of the weekend, which will be broadcast live on the official [YouTube](#) channel.

#### **James Wharton (Prema Racing):**

*"I'm very pleased with this result, which I think is one of the most important of the year, especially when you have Rafa, the championship leader, in your group. I wasn't very confident on this track and in this round, but we managed to put everything together, which is giving me confidence with hopes of performing well in the race."*

#### **Tuuka Taponen (R-ace GP):**

*"I did everything I could this morning. We still need to improve a little, although I managed to be the fastest in my group despite it being my first time on this circuit. In my group, we had a good performance, managing to implement the strategy we had planned."*

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