



# PRESS RELEASE

13.06.2026

## Wharton impresses to take victory in Barcelona

---



James Wharton claimed victory of Saturday's Barcelona Sprint Race, holding off Freddie Slater to come out on top for PREMA Racing. Starting in second, the Australian driver took the lead early on and managed two Safety Car restarts before going on to win. Slater followed him across the line in P2 for TRIDENT with DAMS Lucas Oil's Gerrard Xie in third.

### AS IT HAPPENED

It was a great start for polesitter Xie, who kept Wharton at bay on the

run down to Turn 1. The DAMS driver's defence put the Australian on the back foot, allowing Slater to make a move for P2.

The TRIDENT rookie and Wharton went side-by-side through the Turns 2 and 4 before Slater took the inside line at the exit of Turn 5 to move up a place. On Lap 3, Wharton retook the position, diving to the inside of Slater at Turn 1.

In fifth and sixth were the Van Amersfoort Racing cars of Enzo Deligny and Bruno del Pino, with the former coming on the radio to call on he and his teammate to work together. Wharton was showing strong pace and having closed in on Xie, took the lead with another move to the inside at Turn 1.

Further behind them, Ernesto Rivera's day came to an end. The Campos Racing driver slowed with an issue on the racing line, forcing Brando Badoer to take avoiding action. However, the two still made slight contact allowing Ugo Ugochukwu to take P7 from the Italian. Rivera pulled over to the side of the road by the end of the next lap, but just as he did that, Slater overtook Xie for P2. A timely move from the TRIDENT driver with the Virtual Safety Car, which later turned to a full Safety Car, signalled at the start of Lap 8.

Racing resumed on Lap 11 with Wharton defending from Slater throughout the first sector. In the battle for P9, Badoer looked to be struggling with damage and lost out to Théophile Nael. It was proving to be a tough day for Campos, with Ugochukwu going side-by-side with Deligny through Turns 2 and 3 but spinning into the gravel having run off the racing line, bringing out the Safety Car.

Wharton led the field away again on Lap 17, with Xie defending from Tuukka Taponen on the run to Turn 1. The PREMA driver then set the fastest lap to pull out a one second lead on Slater, while Noah Stromsted went around the outside of Alessandro Giusti at Turn 12 to take P11.

On the penultimate lap, Wharton was out of DRS range to Slater, as

Xie and Taponen started to pile on the pressure. The Briton defended his position into Turn 1 on the final lap from Xie, allowing Taponen to close in with he and the DAMS driver going side-by-side through Turns 2 and 3. However Xie retained P2.

Back at the front, Wharton achieved his second Formula 3 victory, with Slater holding on for second ahead of Xie. Taponen settled for fourth ahead of the VAR trio of Deligny, Del Pino and Yamakoshi, with Nael in eighth. Louis Sharp was ninth for PREMA, as Stromsted rounded out the points in P10.

### **KEY QUOTE – James Wharton, PREMA Racing**

“I feel incredible. It’s been a hard season so far, and I feel like this was needed for me and for the team as well. The team has needed this boost of confidence, and I feel like we are doing the job we just have not had the results to show it. To do something like this with someone so fast behind me like Freddie is very good for us and it shows us we are working well. But at the same time after Lap 1 I didn’t think I’d be sitting here, so to be winning after going back at the start shows my maturity level from last year and I am happy with how it went. I could not be more happy.”

### **CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS**

Ugo Ugochukwu retains the lead of the Drivers’ Championship but is now tied on 43 points with Freddie Slater. Bruno del Pino is third with 40 points, ahead of Brando Badoer in fourth on 28, as Théophile Nael rounds out the top five on 25.

In the Teams’ Standings, Campos Racing continue to lead the way with 78 points, ahead of Van Amersfoort Racing on 62. TRIDENT are third with 53 points, with Rodin Motorsport fourth with 44. ART Grand Prix round out the top five with 31 points.

### **UP NEXT**

The Barcelona Feature Race next up on the agenda with lights out scheduled for 08:40 local time on Sunday morning.

# FIA Formula 3 - Barcelona - Provisional Classification - Sprint Race

	<b>DRIVER</b>	<b>LICENCE</b>	<b>TEAM</b>
1	James Wharton	AUS	PREMA Racing
2	Freddie Slater	GBR	TRIDENT
3	Gerrard Xie	CHN	DAMS Lucas Oil
4	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	MP Motorsport
5	Enzo Deligny	FRA	Van Amersfoort Racing
6	Bruno Del Pino	ESP	Van Amersfoort Racing
7	Hiyu Yamakoshi	JPN	Van Amersfoort Racing
8	Theophile Nael	FRA	Campos Racing
9	Louis Sharp	NZL	PREMA Racing
10	Noah Stromsted	DEN	TRIDENT
11	Alessandro Giusti	FRA	MP Motorsport
12	Maciej Gladysz	POL	ART Grand Prix
13	Pedro Clerot	BRA	Rodin Motorsport
14	Kanato Le	JPN	ART Grand Prix
15	Taito Kato	JPN	ART Grand Prix
16	Nicola Lacorte	ITA	DAMS Lucas Oil
17	Fernando Barrichello	BRA	AIX Racing
18	Jin Nakamura	JPN	Hitech
19	Yevan David	SRI	AIX Racing
20	Brando Badoer	ITA	Rodin Motorsport
21	Fionn McLaughlin	IRL	Hitech
22	Woohyun Shin	KOR	Hitech
23	Ricardo Escotto	MEX	AIX Racing
24	Matteo De Palo	ITA	TRIDENT
25	Christian Ho	SGP	Rodin Motorsport
26	Nandhavud Bhirombhakdi	THA	DAMS Lucas Oil
27	Jose Garfias	MEX	PREMA Racing

## NOT CLASSIFIED

<b>DNF</b>	Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	Campos Racing
<b>DNF</b>	Mattia Colnaghi	ARG	MP Motorsport
<b>DNF</b>	Ernesto Rivera	MEX	Campos Racing

## OVERALL FASTEST LAP

	James Wharton	AUS	PREMA Racing
			1:32.211(Lap 17)

## OVERALL FASTEST LAP FOR POINTS

	James Wharton	AUS	PREMA Racing
			1:32.211(Lap 17)

## ENDS

### **About FIA Formula 3:**

2019 marked the launch of the FIA Formula 3 Championship. An ambitious new project from the FIA and the former GP3 Series Organisation to form an official third rung of the Road to F1 ladder. Combining GP3 and European F3, the idea was to create a defined entry point for young and ambitious drivers to join the Formula 1 circus, and to give them the chance to take the path to join their heroes in the main paddock. With some of the world's best racing teams on board, and the hottest junior motor racing talent from across the globe filling their race seats, Formula 3 promised to be one of the most exciting championships in motorsport.

Designed as the perfect training ground for both F2, and ultimately, F1, our young drivers must showcase their skills both in speed and in tyre management, just like they will have to do when they move up the motorsport ladder. Notable F3 alumni include 2020 Champion Oscar Piastri, F1 rookie Arvid Lindblad and of course the F1 rookie class of 2024 that included F3 Champion Gabriel Bortoleto, Oliver Bearman, Franco Colapinto and Isack Hadjar. The Championship benefits from the FIA's excellence in the scrutineering of cars and the overseeing and running of events, while FOM's (Formula One Management) unparalleled expertise in broadcasting and marketing ensures that the Championship has a truly global reach and appeal. 2026 promises to be a thrilling spectacle from start to finish.

Email: [Media@FIAFormula3.com](mailto:Media@FIAFormula3.com)

X: [@Formula3](#)