



# PRESS RELEASE

14.06.2026

## Nael takes dominant lights-to-flag victory in Barcelona

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Théophile Nael was at his brilliant best as he claimed a maiden FIA Formula 3 victory in the Barcelona Feature Race. The Campos Racing driver kept the lead at the start from pole, and resisted pressure from Van Amersfoort Racing's Hiyu Yamakoshi, who finished second, early on before taking victory, with teammate Ugo Ugochukwu rounding out the podium in third.

### AS IT HAPPENED

It was a great start for Nael who kept the lead from pole but his

Campos teammate Ugochukwu was slow away from second and down to P3 behind Yamakoshi before Turn 1. Yamakoshi and Nael then went side-by-side into Turn 1 but having ran off the road, ceded position back to the Frenchman.

Freddie Slater was on a charge, going around the outside of Enzo Deligny for P7 at Turn 1 on Lap 2. On the next lap, the TRIDENT driver overtook Ernesto Rivera for P6 down the main straight. A Virtual Safety Car soon signalled with marshals having to pick up debris from the track following contact between Woohyun Shin and Yevan David.

Nael was struggling to break the DRS as Yamakoshi set the fastest time of the race on Lap 6, the gap just 0.6s between the top two. On Lap 7, Pedro Clerot made an excellent dive to the inside of Mattia Colnaghi for P18 at Turn 7.

Just as they did that, DAMS Lucas Oil teammate Nicola Lacorte and Nandhavud Bhirombhakdi made contact at Turn 10. It left the former out of the race, and with his car needing to be cleared, the VSC was called upon again. Racing resumed on Lap 9 and Slater was given a five-second time penalty for leaving the track and gaining an advantage on the opening lap. The Briton was still showing good pace, as he overtook Brando Badoer for P5 down the main straight.

The VAR cars were keeping pace with their rivals ahead, with Yamakoshi right on the gearbox of Nael, while Ugochukwu, having dropped back from the leading two, was coming under pressure from Bruno del Pino. Debris on the racing line down the main straight meant VSC was called upon with Yamakoshi now just 0.4s behind Nael.

Del Pino's pressure on Ugochukwu finally paid off as the Campos driver ran wide at the final corner, allowing the Spaniard to take P3 on Lap 16. Nael however was now 1.3s clear of Yamakoshi, as he started to set personal best sector times.

Badoer in sixth had just been informed by his Rodin Motorsport team of del Pino's struggles, and soon afterwards, Ugochukwu used the

DRS to get back to P3 from the Spaniard on the main straight on Lap 20. Slater then ran wide at the final corner, which allowed Badoer through to take P5 on Lap 21.

Out in front, Nael was 1.4s clear of Yamakoshi, who was over three seconds ahead of Ugochukwu. Badoer's charge continued on the penultimate lap, with a move past del Pino down the main straight for fourth. In the battle for points, Taito Kato overtook Tuukka Taponen for P9 at Turn 1, while Maciej Gladysz went around the outside of James Wharton at Turn 4 to go to P11.

Del Pino's struggles continued on the final lap, with teammate Deligny taking P5 down the main straight. Out in front however, Nael held firm to win for the first time in Formula 3, beating Yamakoshi across the line by just 0.7s.

Ugochukwu settled for P3, ahead of Badoer, Deligny and Del Pino. Rivera was seventh for Campos, with Slater's five-second time penalty dropping him to P8 behind the Mexican. Kato wound up in P9 ahead of ART Grand Prix teammate Gladysz – after his final lap overtake on Tuukka Taponen.

### **KEY QUOTE – Théophile Nael, Campos Racing**

“First victory in FIA Formula 3. I'm super happy, especially as it's a home race for the team, so a one-three, I am super happy. There's still a long way to the end of the championship but it's good points this weekend.”

### **CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS**

Ugo Ugochukwu leads the Drivers' Standings on 58 points, but Théophile Nael, who is now up to second, has reduced his advantage to just six points going to Spielberg. Bruno del Pino is third on 48 points, just one point ahead of Freddie Slater with Brando Badoer fifth on 41.

In the Teams' Standings, Campos Racing continue to lead the way with 126 points, with Van Amersfoort Racing second with 99. Rodin

Motorsport are up to third with 57 points, while TRIDENT are a point behind in fourth. ART Grand Prix completed the top five with 34.

## UP NEXT

The paddock will take a week's break before hitting the track in Spielberg for Round 4 from June 26-28.

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

	<b>DRIVER</b>	<b>LICENCE</b>	<b>TEAM</b>
<b>1</b>	Theophile Nael	FRA	Campos Racing
<b>2</b>	Hiyu Yamakoshi	JPN	Van Amersfoort Racing
<b>3</b>	Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	Campos Racing
<b>4</b>	Brando Badoer	ITA	Rodin Motorsport
<b>5</b>	Enzo Deligny	FRA	Van Amersfoort Racing
<b>6</b>	Bruno Del Pino	ESP	Van Amersfoort Racing
<b>7</b>	Ernesto Rivera	MEX	Campos Racing
<b>8</b>	Freddie Slater	GBR	TRIDENT
<b>9</b>	Taito Kato	JPN	ART Grand Prix
<b>10</b>	Maciej Gladysz	POL	ART Grand Prix
<b>11</b>	Noah Stromsted	DEN	TRIDENT
<b>12</b>	James Wharton	AUS	PREMA Racing
<b>13</b>	Kanato Le	JPN	ART Grand Prix
<b>14</b>	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	MP Motorsport
<b>15</b>	Gerrard Xie	CHN	DAMS Lucas Oil
<b>16</b>	Pedro Clerot	BRA	Rodin Motorsport
<b>17</b>	Alessandro Giusti	FRA	MP Motorsport
<b>18</b>	Mattia Colnaghi	ARG	MP Motorsport
<b>19</b>	Louis Sharp	NZL	PREMA Racing
<b>20</b>	Matteo De Palo	ITA	TRIDENT
<b>21</b>	Jose Garfias	MEX	PREMA Racing
<b>22</b>	Jin Nakamura	JPN	Hitech
<b>23</b>	Ricardo Escotto	MEX	AIX Racing
<b>24</b>	Fernando Barrichello	BRA	AIX Racing
<b>25</b>	Nandhavud Bhirombhakdi	THA	DAMS Lucas Oil
<b>26</b>	Fionn McLaughlin	IRL	Hitech
<b>27</b>	Yevan David	SRI	AIX Racing
<b>28</b>	Christian Ho	SGP	Rodin Motorsport
<b>29</b>	Woohyun Shin	KOR	Hitech
<b>NOT CLASSIFIED</b>			
<b>DNF</b>	Nicola Lacorte	ITA	DAMS Lucas Oil

### OVERALL FASTEST LAP

	Hiyu Yamakoshi		JPN	Van Amersfoort Racing	
				1:32.408(Lap 5)	

### OVERALL FASTEST LAP FOR POINTS

	Hiyu Yamakoshi		JPN	Van Amersfoort Racing	
				1:32.408(Lap 5)	

**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](https://twitter.com/Formula3)