



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Nael makes it three in a row and beats Ugochukwu to pole in Barcelona

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Théophile Nael took his third consecutive Aramco Pole Position award to start the season, beating Campos Racing teammate Ugo Ugochukwu to pole in Barcelona. Nael's 1:28.263 was enough to seal him take P1 ahead of Ugochukwu by just 0.039s, with Van Amersfoort Racing's Hiyu Yamakoshi in third.

After the first set of laps it was Ugochukwu that led the way with a 1:28.707,

with Taito Kato in second, 0.491s behind the American driver. There were three Campos cars in the top five, with Ernesto Rivera and Nael in third and fifth respectively, Brando Badoer sandwiched between the duo in P4.

The drivers were brought in after those first runs, with the teams putting on another set of new Hard tyres. They returned to the track with less than 18 minutes to go and Bruno del Pino went quickest by 0.086s with a 1:28.621.

However several drivers were improving, in particular Nael, who set the three fastest sectors to go to P1 with a 1:28.263, bettering Ugochukwu by just 0.039s with Badoer in P3. Just six minutes remained on the clock when the field started to filter back out on to the track.

Nael did not improve on his final lap leaving under pressure from those behind him. However nobody could beat the Campos driver's time giving him his third consecutive pole position to start the season. Ugochukwu stayed in second after a difficult middle sector on his final attempt, with Yamakoshi in third. Badoer and Kato followed, with Bruno del Pino sixth ahead of Rivera and Deligny.

Tuukka Taponen was ninth for MP Motorsport ahead of Freddie Slater and James Wharton, with Gerrard Xie rounding out the top 12. Xie is set to start from reverse grid pole in Saturday's Barcelona Sprint Race which is scheduled to get underway at 10:05 local time.

### **FIA Formula 3 - Barcelona - Provisional Classification - Qualifying**

	<b>DRIVER</b>	<b>LICENCE</b>	<b>TEAM</b>	<b>LAPTIME</b>
<b>1</b>	Theophile Nael	FRA	<b>Campos Racing</b>	01:28.3
<b>2</b>	Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	<b>Campos Racing</b>	01:28.3
<b>3</b>	Hiyu Yamakoshi	JPN	<b>Van Amersfoort Racing</b>	01:28.4
<b>4</b>	Brando Badoer	ITA	<b>Rodin Motorsport</b>	01:28.5
<b>5</b>	Taito Kato	JPN	<b>ART Grand Prix</b>	01:28.5
<b>6</b>	Bruno Del Pino	ESP	<b>Van Amersfoort Racing</b>	01:28.6
<b>7</b>	Ernesto Rivera	MEX	<b>Campos Racing</b>	01:28.6
<b>8</b>	Enzo Deligny	FRA	<b>Van Amersfoort Racing</b>	01:28.7
<b>9</b>	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	<b>MP Motorsport</b>	01:28.7
<b>10</b>	Freddie Slater	GBR	<b>TRIDENT</b>	01:28.8
<b>11</b>	James Wharton	AUS	<b>PREMA Racing</b>	01:28.8
<b>12</b>	Gerrard Xie	CHN	<b>DAMS Lucas Oil</b>	01:28.9

13	Alessandro Giusti	FRA	<b>MP Motorsport</b>	01:28.9
14	Maciej Gladysz	POL	<b>ART Grand Prix</b>	01:29.0
15	Kanato Le	JPN	<b>ART Grand Prix</b>	01:29.0
16	Mattia Colnaghi	ARG	<b>MP Motorsport</b>	01:29.0
17	Louis Sharp	NZL	<b>PREMA Racing</b>	01:29.0
18	Nicola Lacorte	ITA	<b>DAMS Lucas Oil</b>	01:29.1
19	Matteo De Palo	ITA	<b>TRIDENT</b>	01:29.1
20	Nandhavud Bhirombhakdi	THA	<b>DAMS Lucas Oil</b>	01:29.1
21	Christian Ho	SGP	<b>Rodin Motorsport</b>	01:29.2
22	Noah Stromsted	DEN	<b>TRIDENT</b>	01:29.2
23	Pedro Clerot	BRA	<b>Rodin Motorsport</b>	01:29.3
24	Fernando Barrichello	BRA	<b>AIX Racing</b>	01:29.3
25	Fionn McLaughlin	IRL	<b>Hitech</b>	01:29.5
26	Jose Garfias	MEX	<b>PREMA Racing</b>	01:29.5
27	Woohyun Shin	KOR	<b>Hitech</b>	01:29.6
28	Yevan David	SRI	<b>AIX Racing</b>	01:29.8
29	Ricardo Escotto	MEX	<b>AIX Racing</b>	01:29.9
30	Jin Nakamura	JPN	<b>Hitech</b>	01:29.9

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**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.

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