

A portrait of Rashid Al Dhaheri, a male racing driver, smiling and pointing towards the camera. He is wearing a dark blue racing suit with green and white accents. The suit features several logos: Mercedes-Benz, AMG, FIA FREC, Pirelli, Capital, CHAIMAA HOLDING, and others. The background is a blurred racetrack environment.

5 July 2026

Rashid Al Dhaheri becomes the seventh different pole-sitter of the 2026 FIA FREC season



Rashid Al Dhaheri set the fastest time in Sunday morning's Qualifying 2 session at the Hungaroring to becoming the seventh different pole-sitter of the season. The R-ace GP driver, coming off a second-place finish in Saturday's Race 1 that saw him return to the top of the FIA FREC standings, will head the grid for the final race of the weekend. Joining him on the front row will be MP Motorsport's Alexander Abkhazava, who came out on top in Group B to secure his best result of the season in qualifying.

Race 1 winner Yuki Sano and Emanuele Olivieri will line up on an all-R-ace GP second row. Behind them will be Van Amersfoort Racing's Francisco Macedo and Kean Nakamura-Berta, with the PREMA Racing driver aiming to get back among the frontrunners. Sebastian Wheldon finished fourth in Group A for MP Motorsport, ahead of CL Motorsport's Reno Francot. Fourth and fifth quickest in Group B were Rodin Motorsport's Alex Ninovic and G4 Racing's Saqer Almaosherji respectively.

GROUP B

Qualifying 2 began with the Group B drivers taking to the track first under cooler conditions than Saturday. Emanuele Olivieri moved into provisional pole with three minutes remaining thanks to a 1:38.404 lap. Alexander Abkhazava then took his turn, going two tenths quicker courtesy of a perfect second sector. Olivieri responded with a 1:38.137 to reclaim the top spot, before Abkhazava hit back almost as the chequered flag fell, posting a 1:37.912 to move back to the top of the timesheets. Kean Nakamura-Berta ended the session third quickest, 0.269s adrift of the MP Motorsport driver.

GROUP A

Francisco Macedo was the first driver in Group A to break into the 1:37s, doing so with three minutes remaining in the session. Having led the way during the early stages, it was ultimately Rashid Al Dhaheri who came out on top. The R-ace GP driver posted a 1:37.639 to go 0.248s clear. Yuki Sano eventually secured second place, jumping ahead of Macedo with his final effort to finish behind his R-ace GP team-mate.

Rashid Al Dhaheri (R-ace GP): *"Honestly, I was a little disappointed yesterday because I had high expectations for myself. What mattered most, though, was learning from those mistakes and coming back stronger today. In the end, we*

did a really good job, especially as a team. They made this possible by giving me the opportunity to put together strong laps in both Qualifying 1 and Qualifying 2, and I'm very grateful for that. But the job isn't done yet. We still have one race to go and important work ahead of us".

Alexander Abkhazava (MP Motorsport): *"I think we had a pretty good qualifying session. The pace is there and we have the opportunity to fight at the front, so we'll see what we can do with it in the race. I really enjoy driving here, especially Sector 2, which is just incredible with its high-speed corners. It's a very enjoyable track and one that really rewards confidence and commitment."*

The final race of the Hungaroring weekend is scheduled to get underway this afternoon at 15:55 CEST. Live coverage will be available in more than 200 territories worldwide, including on ACI Sport TV and via the Championship's official YouTube channel, @fiaformularegionaleu.

Full broadcast details are available [here](#).