



PRESS RELEASE

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Taponen stuns to take pole ahead of Slater late on in Budapest



Tuukka Taponen left it late to take his first ever Aramco Pole Position Award, sealing top spot with a 1:33.411. The MP Motorsport driver left it until the final lap of the day to take the top time by 0.042s over Slater, with teammate Mattia Colnaghi rounding out the top three – 0.072s away from Taponen.

There was a mixture of strategies to start the session, with PREMA Racing, ART Grand Prix, DAMS Lucas Oil and Hitech all sending their drivers out later than the rest. But after the first set of times it was Théophile Nael on top after

a 1:33.533, with Taponen his closest challenger 0.019s behind in second.

In the battle between the top two drivers in the championship, Slater was seventh, while Ugo Ugochukwu was ninth after a huge lock up at Turn 1. The drivers returned to the track with 18 minutes to go on new Medium tyres.

Slater then went quickest on a 1:33.451 with Nicola Lacorte just behind him in second, 0.064s behind, ahead of Brando Badoer in third. Critically in the title fight, Ugochukwu was down in P12. The drivers returned to the pitlane to strap on another set of Mediums for their final laps of the day.

On this occasion, there was no improvement from Slater as Colnaghi went up to second, 0.024s off the top time. The TRIDENT driver looked set for pole until Taponen snatched P1 with a 1:33.411, beating Slater by just 0.040s.

Colnaghi was in P3, with Lacorte in fourth ahead of Brand Badoer. Ugochukwu's final lap put him in sixth ahead of his Campos Racing teammates Nael and Ernesto Rivera. Jin Nakamura was ninth ahead of Gerrard Xie, with ART Grand Prix drivers Maciej Gladysz and Kanato Le rounding out the top 12.

Le is set to start from reverse grid pole position in Saturday's Sprint Race. Lights out at the Hungaroring is currently scheduled for 10:05 local time.

FIA Formula 3 - Budapest - Provisional Classification - Qualifying

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	LAPTIME
1	Freddie Slater	GBR	TRIDENT	1:33.947
2	Brando Badoer	ITA	Rodin Motorsport	1:34.082
3	Pedro Clerot	BRA	Rodin Motorsport	1:34.347
4	Jin Nakamura	JPN	Hitech	1:34.369
5	Theophile Nael	FRA	Campos Racing	1:34.397
6	Enzo Deligny	FRA	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:34.418
7	Nicola Lacorte	ITA	DAMS Lucas Oil	1:34.462
8	Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	Campos Racing	1:34.522
9	Mattia Colnaghi	ARG	MP Motorsport	1:34.633
10	Maciej Gladysz	POL	ART Grand Prix	1:34.658
11	Taito Kato	JPN	ART Grand Prix	1:34.732
12	Bruno Del Pino	ESP	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:34.775
13	Ernesto Rivera	MEX	Campos Racing	1:34.880

14	Louis Sharp	NZL	PREMA Racing	1:34.882	
15	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	MP Motorsport	1:34.924	
16	Christian Ho	SGP	Rodin Motorsport	1:34.940	
17	Yevan David	SRI	AIX Racing	1:34.981	
18	James Wharton	AUS	PREMA Racing	1:35.017	
19	Alessandro Giusti	FRA	MP Motorsport	1:35.024	
20	Noah Stromsted	DEN	TRIDENT	1:35.074	
21	Kanato Le	JPN	ART Grand Prix	1:35.195	
22	Gerrard Xie	CHN	DAMS Lucas Oil	1:35.302	
23	Fionn Mclaughlin	IRL	Hitech	1:35.371	
24	Woohyun Shin	KOR	Hitech	1:35.515	
25	Hiyu Yamakoshi	JPN	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:35.568	
26	Jose Garfias	MEX	PREMA Racing	1:35.686	
27	Nandhavud Bhirombhakdi	THA	DAMS Lucas Oil	1:36.050	
28	Matteo De Palo	ITA	TRIDENT	1:48.286	
29	Fernando Barrichello	BRA	AIX Racing	1:58.830	
30	Salim Hanna	COL	AIX Racing	2:02.773	

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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