



21 April 2026

FIA FREC roars into life as Red Bull Ring hosts the opening round of the inaugural season



FIA Formula Regional European Championship roars into life this weekend (24–26 April) at the Red Bull Ring, as the Austrian venue's 4.318 km layout hosts the opening round of the 2026 season.

A new era is set to begin, with the FIA taking a central role in the championship governance and positioning within the international single-seater pathway, alongside the organisation and promotion by ACI (Automobile Club d'Italia).

Featuring the new Tatuus T-326 — the second-generation Formula Regional car — the series takes to the grid with a 30-driver field across 10 teams.

Following pre-season testing at Hockenheim, Paul Ricard and the Red Bull Ring — where a total of 7,992 laps were completed, covering more than 38,660 kilometres in different weather conditions — the campaign now gets underway on the Styrian circuit with the first round of an eight-event calendar, featuring a triple-header weekend.

THE TEAMS IN FOCUS

ART Grand Prix. The French outfit continues its three-decade tradition in the junior categories and lines up with 2025 French F4 champion **Alexandre Munoz**. The 16-year-old showed instant pace, placing himself firmly among the quickest during pre-season testing at Paul Ricard. He will be joined by Singapore's **Kabir Anurag** alongside Monegasque driver **Mattéo Giaccardi**.

CL Motorsport. Italy-based team CL Motorsport is set to field highly rated 19-year-old French racer **Jules Roussel**, who claimed victory in last season's inaugural FIA F4 World Cup in Macau. Alongside him will be Dutch driver **Reno Francot**, who emerged as the fastest on the second day of FIA FREC official testing at Hockenheim in late March and is a multiple F4 race winner, as well as Switzerland's **Enea Frey**.

G4 Racing. The Spanish team will field a car for Norwegian rookie **Marcus Saeter**, who topped the timesheets overall in testing at both Hockenheim and the Red Bull Ring. He will be joined by Kuwaiti driver **Saqer Almaoasherji** and 16-year-old **Rahim Alibhai** (USA).

MP Motorsport. **Sebastian Wheldon**, a front-runner in last season's Italian F4 Championship, is the latest addition to MP Motorsport's line-up. The Dutch team will also rely on Kazakhstan's **Alexander Abkhazava**, who finished third earlier this year in the Formula Regional Middle East Trophy Certified by FIA with two race wins, as well as 17-year-old **Zhenrui Chi**.

Prema Racing. Italian F4 and E4 Championship reigning champion **Kean Nakamura-Berta**, who also claimed the 2026 Formula Regional Middle East Trophy Certified by FIA title, continues with Prema Racing. The Italian outfit has also confirmed 16-year-old Colombian **Salim Hanna** and Latvia's **Tomass Stolcermanis**, both set to make their debut in the category.

R-ace GP. Making his series' debut with the French team is 17-year-old Italian driver **Emanuele Olivieri**, who last year, also with R-ace GP, clinched the F4 Middle East Championship Certified by FIA title and secured a second-place finish on the Guia Circuit in the FIA F4 World Cup. UAE driver **Rashid Al Dhaheri** returns after an impressive start to the season, claiming three wins in the Formula Regional Middle East Trophy Certified by FIA and securing runner-up honours in the championship. Japan's **Yuki Sano** completes the line-up.

Rodin Motorsport. Newcomer Rodin Motorsport expands its presence in the junior series by entering the FIA Formula Regional European Championship this year. The British outfit has announced Australian driver **Alex Ninovic**. Joining him are Brazil's **Gabriel Gomez**, the fastest overall across the two-day test at Paul Ricard in late March, and 19-year-old British driver **Reza Seewooruthun**.

RPM. The Irish outfit heads into the season with Brazilian driver **Miguel Costa**, who steps up after one year spent in the Spanish F4. Joining him from the same series is 17-year-old Polish driver **Jan Przyrowski**, a three-time race winner last season. Also returning for his fourth campaign with RPM is **Giovanni Maschio**, one of the most experienced drivers on the grid.

Trident Motorsport. The Italian squad continues to view the FIA Formula Regional European

...ent motorsport. The Italian squad continues to view the FIA Formula Regional European Championship as the ideal stepping stone between Formula 4 and FIA Formula 3, where it has dominated in recent years with three consecutive titles. Lining up this season are Grenadian driver **Maksimilian Popov** and Serbia's **Andrija Kostić**, joined by the 2024 Formula Trophy champion, **Kai Daryanani**.

Van Amersfoort Racing. The Dutch outfit, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in motorsport in 2025 following decades of success, is set to embark on the 2026 FIA Formula Regional European Championship campaign with a pair of newcomers, Frenchman **Andrea Dupé** and Portugal's **Francisco Macedo**. Joining them will be returning Indian driver **Dion Gowda**, who secured the Rookie title in last year's Formula Regional European Championship by Alpine.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Track action fires up on Friday at 10:25 CEST with a 50-minute Collective Test. Qualifying 1 gets under way at 17:20 CEST, split into two 15-minute sessions for Groups A and B. Saturday sees the first 30-minute race go green at 10:25 CEST, followed by Race 2 at 16:40 CEST. On Sunday, the action resumes at 08:45 CEST with Qualifying 2, ahead of Race 3 at 16:40 CEST.

WHERE TO WATCH

All FIA Formula Regional European Championship races from the Red Bull Ring will be aired by 78 different broadcasters across more than 200 territories. Among them is ACI Sport TV, which will show both qualifying sessions and races live. In addition, all races will be available via live streaming on the championship's official YouTube channel, [@fiaformularegionaleu](#).