



PRESS RELEASE

05.07.2026

De Palo claims hard fought maiden F3 victory at Silverstone



Matteo De Palo achieved his first victory in FIA Formula 3 with a resilient performance at the Silverstone Feature Race. After making his way to the front after starting fifth, the TRIDENT driver was forced to defend his position on the last lap before going on to win. Ernesto Rivera finished second for Campos Racing ahead of ART Grand Prix driver Maciej Gladysz – both drivers gaining a position at the line following Théophile Nael's 10-second time penalty.

AS IT HAPPENED

It was a great start from Nael, but polesitter Freddie Slater did

incredibly well to stay ahead, braving it around the outside at Turn 1 to keep position. De Palo was up to fourth after starting in P5 and made a nice move on Louis Sharp at the Vale chicane to take P3, with his eyes now set on Slater and Nael.

The Italian then made a nice move on Nael at Stowe, making it a TRIDENT 1-2 on Lap 3. In the championship battle, Ugo Ugochukwu was making progress, getting past Yevan David at the Hangar straight to move up to ninth.

De Palo's impressive start continued on Lap 4, as he dived to the inside of Slater, once again at Stowe, to take the lead of the race. On Lap 7, Gladysz was battling well also and made a nice move around the outside at Vale on Ernesto Rivera.

Nael then tried to dive to the inside of Slater at the Loop on the next lap. The TRIDENT home favourite defended the position before taking the lead back from De Palo a few corners later at the popular Stowe. Rivera then returned the favour on Gladysz, pulling off the same move at Vale to retake P6. The Campos driver then got past Fionn McLaughlin for P5 down the Hangar straight.

The Hitech driver and Gladysz then went wheel-to-wheel at Vale but ran wide, allowing Noah Stromsted, James Wharton and Ugochukwu to get past, relegating McLaughlin to P10. Back at the front, Sharp had been putting some pressure on Nael for third, and on Lap 12, they went wheel-to-wheel at Stowe. But the French driver fought back Vale, putting the PREMA on the back foot at corner exit.

This allowed several drivers to get past, with Rivera, Gladysz, Wharton, Ugochukwu and Stromsted demoting him to P9 in the space of a few corners. Lap 15 and Slater ran wide at Copse as he looked to close back in on his teammate. Behind him, Sharp tried to overtake Stromsted at Stowe, but found the door shut.

Up ahead, Nael had lost DRS to the top two, and was coming under pressure from his teammate Rivera. Slater tried his first move on De

Palo on Lap 18 at Stowe, but his teammate held on, before the Safety Car was called.

Ricardo Escotto stopped at the Loop with damage after hitting the rear of Nandhuvad Bhirombakhdi at Village. The Safety Car was brought in on the penultimate lap setting up a grandstand finish with there being just one racing lap.

Slater had a good restart but De Palo defended well from him and Nael. The Italian then locked up into the Loop, putting his two rivals right on his back down the Wellington straight. The two TRIDENT drivers then went side-by-side through Copse and made slight contact which sent Briton down the order to sixth.

De Palo then had to defend from Nael and Rivera, and locked up again into the final chicane, but he managed to keep it on the road to claim his first victory in FIA Formula 3. Nael crossed the line in P2 but was given a 10-second time penalty at the line for his part in the incident with Sharp, dropping him to P16.

This promoted Rivera to second ahead of Gladysz, Wharton, Slater and Ugochukwu. Sharp was seventh, ahead of Stromsted, with Kanato Le ninth and Alessandro Giusti in P10.

KEY QUOTE – Matteo De Palo, TRIDENT

“A very good weekend here at Silverstone. We knew we had the pace since Free Practice because we have always been at the top, so we are pretty happy for our work done at home to prepare for this race. It’s the result of the work done with my engineer, with my coach, and all the McLaren staff, so we are pretty happy about what we are achieving together. It has not been an easy start to the season, we had a lot of issues, but we were keeping our faith that we were going to do a strong year together and this is the result this weekend, so really happy. Starting from P5 is not a guarantee that you can get this win, so doing it like this is even better.”

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

Ugo Ugochukwu continues to lead the Drivers' Championship on 97 points, while Freddie Slater stays second with 78. Théophile Nael is third with 60 points, ahead of Noah Stromsted on 51 as Bruno del Pino rounds out the top five on 49.

Campos Racing continue to top the Teams' Standings on 202 points, with TRIDENT second with 161. Van Amersfoort Racing are third on 109, followed by Rodin Motorsport who have 78 points, as ART Grand Prix sit fifth on 69.

UP NEXT

The drivers will get a short break before returning to the track for Round 6 at Spa-Francorchamps from July 17-19.

FIA Formula 3 - Silverstone - Provisional Classification - Feature Race

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM
1	Matteo De Palo	ITA	TRIDENT
2	Ernesto Rivera	MEX	Campos Racing
3	Maciej Gladysz	POL	ART Grand Prix
4	James Wharton	AUS	PREMA Racing
5	Freddie Slater	GBR	TRIDENT
6	Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	Campos Racing
7	Louis Sharp	NZL	PREMA Racing
8	Noah Stromsted	DEN	TRIDENT
9	Kanato Le	JPN	ART Grand Prix
10	Alessandro Giusti	FRA	MP Motorsport
11	Yevan David	SRI	AIX Racing
12	Hiyu Yamakoshi	JPN	Van Amersfoort Racing
13	Pedro Clerot	BRA	Rodin Motorsport
14	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	MP Motorsport
15	Theophile Nael	FRA	Campos Racing
16	Jin Nakamura	JPN	Hitech
17	Enzo Deligny	FRA	Van Amersfoort Racing
18	Brando Badoer	ITA	Rodin Motorsport
19	Bruno Del Pino	ESP	Van Amersfoort Racing
20	Fionn McLaughlin	IRL	Hitech
21	Mattia Colnaghi	ARG	MP Motorsport
22	Jose Garfias	MEX	PREMA Racing
23	Gerrard Xie	CHN	DAMS Lucas Oil

	24	Woohyun Shin		KOR		Hitech	
	25	Nandhavud Bhirombhakdi		THA		DAMS Lucas Oil	
	26	Taito Kato		JPN		ART Grand Prix	
	27	Christian Ho		SGP		Rodin Motorsport	
	28	Fernando Barrichello		BRA		AIX Racing	

NOT CLASSIFIED

	DNF	Ricardo Escotto		MEX		AIX Racing	
	DNF	Nicola Lacorte		ITA		DAMS Lucas Oil	

OVERALL FASTEST LAP

		Ernesto Rivera		MEX		Campos Racing	
						1:48.797 (Lap 2)	

OVERALL FASTEST LAP FOR POINTS

		Ernesto Rivera		MEX		Campos Racing	
						1:48.797 (Lap 2)	

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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MATTEO DE PALO DISQUALIFIED FROM SILVERSTONE FEATURE RACE

5 July 2026



Following today's FIA Formula 3 Feature Race at Silverstone, Matteo De Palo has been disqualified from the results.

A post-race report by the FIA Technical Delegate indicated that Car 6 had not met the minimum height requirement set out in Article 3.4.1 of the 2026 FIA Formula 3 Technical Regulations in relation to the diffuser.

After a review, it was determined that Car 6's diffuser was measured 3mm below the minimum on the right hand side and 1mm below the minimum on the left hand side.

The Stewards considered the matter extensively and found that Car 6 was in breach of the championship's technical regulations, and that the competitor had not provided evidence capable of relieving it of its obligation to ensure the conformity of the car.

As a result, De Palo has been disqualified from the results of the Feature Race, with Maciej Gladysz inheriting the win.