



PRESS RELEASE

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Slater fastest and on the front foot in Spa



TRIDENT's Freddie Slater wound up fastest overall in the Spa-Francorchamps Free Practice session, setting a 2:06.311 to lead the pack. Théophile Nael was second for Campos Racing, with Pedro Clerot third for Rodin Motorsport. With preparation laps complete, Nael set the early time to beat with a 2:08.355. That was quickly beaten by compatriot Alessandro Giusti, who lowered the benchmark to a 2:06.895.

MP Motorsport teammate Tuukka Taponen then usurped him to go to P1 with a 2:06.622, with Slater moving up to second, just 0.039s behind the Finn. Maciej Gladysz put ART Grand Prix top of the pile on his next attempt, before Clerot and then Slater beat his time. The Briton went to P1 with a 2:06.311, 0.239s ahead of the Brazilian.

Drivers returned to the pitlane with over 10 minutes to go to wait for more optimal track conditions. With the cars back on track and the session ticking into the final five minutes, drivers went for their next flying laps, but there were few improvements in the field.

Nael rebounded from an earlier setback in the session to move himself up to P2. Taito Kato was another to find time, jumping up to eighth place, 0.274s off Slater's earlier effort. Into the final minute and there was plenty of scrapping for track position in the third sector as drivers fought to get one last run in, but nobody could find any more time on their well-worn Pirelli Hard tyres.

Slater ended up fastest ahead of Nael and Clerot, with Gladysz and Ernesto Rivera rounding out a top five that was covered by a quarter of a second. Ugo Ugochukwu followed to put all three Campos' in the top six ahead of Louis Sharp, Kato, Taponen and Nicola Lacorte, who completed the top 10 for DAMS Lucas Oil.

Qualifying for the Spa-Francorchamps weekend takes place later on Friday, with the green light scheduled for 15:00 local time.

FIA Formula 3 - Spa-Francorchamps - Provisional Classification - Free Practice

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	LAPTIME
1	Freddie Slater	GBR	TRIDENT	2:06.311
2	Theophile Nael	FRA	Campos Racing	2:06.462
3	Maciej Gladysz	POL	ART Grand Prix	2:06.551
4	Ernesto Rivera	MEX	Campos Racing	2:06.553
5	Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	Campos Racing	2:06.560
6	Louis Sharp	NZL	PREMA Racing	2:06.577
7	Taito Kato	JPN	ART Grand Prix	2:06.585
8	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	MP Motorsport	2:06.606
9	Nicola Lacorte	ITA	DAMS Lucas Oil	2:06.623

	10	Christian Ho		SGP	Rodin Motorsport		2:06.627	
	11	Mattia Colnaghi		ARG	MP Motorsport		2:06.733	
	12	Brando Badoer		ITA	Rodin Motorsport		2:06.773	
	13	Bruno Del Pino		ESP	Van Amersfoort Racing		2:06.820	
	14	Matteo De Palo		ITA	TRIDENT		2:06.891	
	15	Alessandro Giusti		FRA	MP Motorsport		2:06.895	
	16	Noah Stromsted		DEN	TRIDENT		2:06.950	
	17	Enzo Deligny		FRA	Van Amersfoort Racing		2:06.995	
	18	Jin Nakamura		JPN	Hitech		2:07.005	
	19	Gerrard Xie		CHN	DAMS Lucas Oil		2:07.108	
	20	Yevan David		SRI	AIX Racing		2:07.114	
	21	Kanato Le		JPN	ART Grand Prix		2:07.230	
	22	Hiroyuki Yamakoshi		JPN	Van Amersfoort Racing		2:07.386	
	23	Fernando Barrichello		BRA	AIX Racing		2:07.410	
	24	Jose Garfias		MEX	PREMA Racing		2:07.476	
	25	James Wharton		AUS	PREMA Racing		2:07.501	
	26	Fionn McLaughlin		IRL	Hitech		2:07.594	
	27	Nandhavud Bhirombhakdi		THA	DAMS Lucas Oil		2:07.643	
	28	Woohyun Shin		KOR	Hitech		2:07.710	
	29	Pedro Clerot		BRA	Rodin Motorsport		2:08.168	
	30	Ricardo Escotto		MEX	AIX Racing		2:08.668	

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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