



Race Preview

2019 BELGIAN GRAND PRIX

30 August – 1 September 2019

Formula 1 returns from the summer break to a classic race at a classic venue: the Belgian Grand Prix at the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps – Round 13 of the 2019 FIA Formula One World Championship.

At 7.004km, Spa-Francorchamps is F1's longest circuit. Set in the rolling Ardennes, has the largest elevation change on the calendar with a drop of approximately 100m between its highest and lowest points. It features several of motor racing's most famous corners, and, for F1 cars, also some of the most challenging.

Spa offers intriguing set-up options, with more than one way to find lap-time on the famous old track. If the Eau Rouge/Radillon section is taken flat-out, the run from the La Source Hairpin to the Les Combes chicane is a 1.8km full throttle burst. Under other circumstances this would push teams towards a low-drag set-up – but a sinuous middle sector, including the high-speed double-left at Pouhon, tempers this with a demand for more downforce.

Pirelli bring their three hardest tyre compounds to Spa, to cope with a circuit that is traditionally abrasive, and features lateral forces and levels of tyre stress that the Italian supplier categorise as extreme.

With nine races remaining in 2019, reigning World Champion Lewis Hamilton and his Mercedes team both enjoy commanding leads in their respective title defences. In the Constructors' Championship, Mercedes are 150 points ahead of Ferrari, while in the Drivers' Championship, Hamilton enjoys a 62-point lead over team-mate Valtteri Bottas. The intrigue lies in the chasing pack: Max Verstappen is now only seven points behind Bottas, while his Red Bull team, featuring a new line-up that now has the Dutchman paired with Thai rookie Alex Albon, are only 44 points behind the Scuderia.



CIRCUIT DE SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

Length of lap:

7.004km

Lap record:

1:46.286 (Valtteri Bottas, Mercedes, 2018)

Start line/finish line offset:

0.124km

Total number of race laps: 44**Total race distance:**

308.052km

Pitlane speed limits:

80km/h in practice, qualifying, and the race

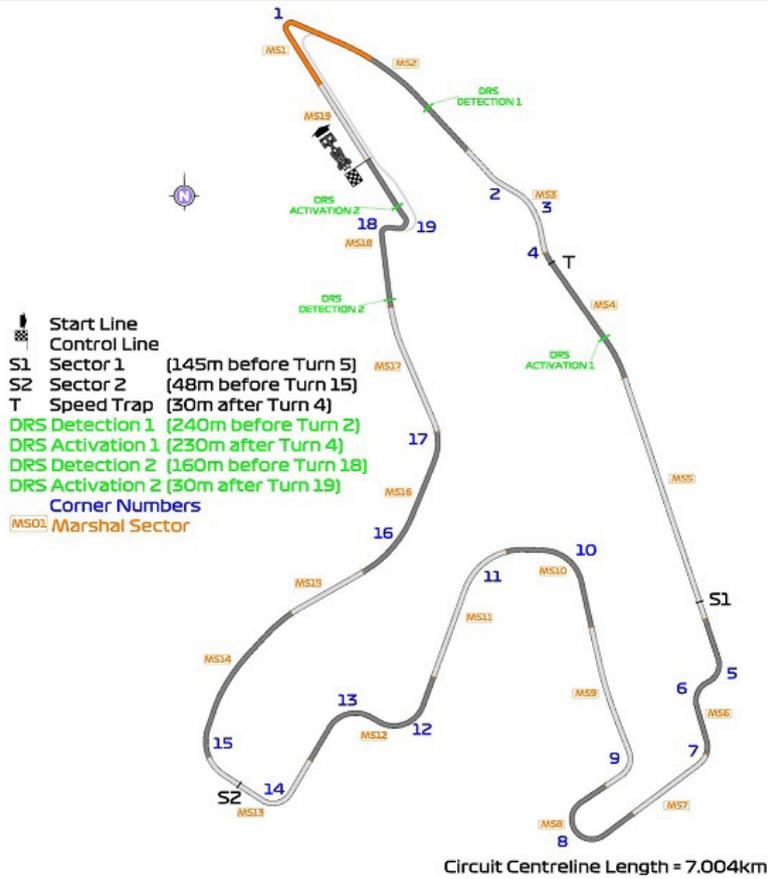
CIRCUIT NOTES

- ▶ No changes of significance since 2018.

DRS ZONE

- ▶ There will be two DRS zones at Spa-Francorchamps. The detection point of the first is located 240m before Turn 2, with the activation point 230m after Turn 4. The second zone has a detection point 160m before Turn 18 and an activation point 30m after Turn 19.

Media Map



FAST FACTS

- ▶ This is the 64th World Championship Belgian Grand Prix. The race was part of the original calendar in 1950. It was absent from the calendar in 1957, 1959, 1969, 1971, 2003 and 2006.
- ▶ Spa-Francorchamps has hosted the race on 51 occasions. It has also been held at Zolder (1973, 1975-1982, 1984) and Nivelles (1972, 1974).
- ▶ Spa-Francorchamps has undergone many modifications. The original 14.9km circuit had been reduced to 14.1km by 1950 and was used, largely unchanged, by F1 until 1970. F1 returned in 1983 to a circuit cut down to approximately half that length. Minor revisions to the modern layout, have been frequent. A more significant revision, including a new Bus Stop chicane and pit entry, took the circuit up to its current 7.004km in 2007.
- ▶ Ferrari are the most successful team in Belgium with 17 victories, ahead of McLaren's 14. The margin is narrower at Spa, where Ferrari have 13 compared to McLaren's 12. From the rest of the current field, Mercedes have four Spa victories, Williams and Red Bull three, Alfa Romeo two, and Renault one.
- ▶ Michael Schumacher is the most successful Belgian Grand Prix driver with six wins. The current field contains four Spa winners: Kimi Räikkönen (2004, 2005, 2007, 2009); Lewis Hamilton (2010, 2015, 2017); Sebastian Vettel (2011, 2013, 2018) and Daniel Ricciardo (2014).
- ▶ Pole position is not hugely significant at Spa: 18 of 51 races have been won from pole. The ratio does, however, increase slightly in the modern era, with six wins coming from pole in the 12 races since the 2007 revamp. Michael Schumacher holds the record for winning from furthest back, starting P16 in 1995.
- ▶ Of the current field, Hamilton has taken five pole positions (2008, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018), while Räikkönen (2007) and Vettel (2011) have a pole each.
- ▶ Racing Point made its debut at last year's Belgian Grand Prix. Previous incarnations of the Silverstone-based outfit had strong associations with Spa. Jordan Grand Prix had its first pole position here with Rubens Barrichello in 1994. In 1998 on this track, Jordan recorded its first victory, with a 1-2 finish for Damon Hill and Ralf Schumacher. In 2009, Giancarlo Fisichella gave Force India its only pole position. He finished second, adding a first podium, for that iteration.
- ▶ Several of the current field have celebrated milestones at Spa. Both Räikkönen (2002) and Max Verstappen (2016) had their first front-row start at this circuit. Räikkönen (2009) and Vettel (2015) made their 150th F1 start here, and Hamilton (2017) made his 200th.
- ▶ Esteban Ocon is the most recent driver to make his F1 racing debut at Spa. The current Mercedes reserve raced for Manor in the 2016 Belgian Grand Prix and finished 16th, the first of 27 consecutive classified finishes, a record from debut.
- ▶ All four full-season rookies are winners here in junior formulae. Antonio Giovinazzi won the 2016 GP2 sprint race; George Russell won a round of the 2016 FIA Formula 3 Championship, then won the 2017 feature race from pole in GP3. Alex Albon won last year's F2 feature race and McLaren's Lando Norris won two of his three 2017 F3 races at Spa. Norris is the only one of the four to have driven F1 laps here, having made his race weekend debut in FP1 last year for McLaren.

RACE STEWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

DR GERD ENNSER

MEMBER OF THE DMSB'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR AUTOMOBILE SPORT, FORMULA ONE AND DTM STEWARD

Dr Gerd Ennsler has successfully combined his formal education in law with his passion for motor racing. While still active as a racing driver he began helping out with the management of his local motor sport club and since 2006 has been a permanent steward at every round of Germany's DTM championship. Since 2010 he has also been a Formula One steward. Dr Ennsler, who has worked as a judge, a prosecutor and in the legal department of an automotive-industry company, has also acted as a member of the steering committee of German motor sport body, the DMSB, since spring 2010, where he is responsible for automobile sport. In addition, Dr Ennsler is a board member of the South Bavaria Section of ADAC, Germany's biggest auto club.



STEVE CHOPPING

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN MOTOR SPORT (CAMS), CHAIRMAN NATIONAL STEWARDS PANEL

Steven Chopping competed as a driver in various karting, Formula Ford, Australian Formula 2, Sports and Production Car competitions from the early 1970s until 1990. He was a steward at the Australian Rally Championship from 1997-2004 and Chairman of the Stewards at the Australian Production Car Rally Championship from 2001-2004. He has been a permanent steward at the V8 Supercar Championship in Australia since 2004, national steward at the Australian Grand Prix from 2005 and continues to serve as Chairman of the National Stewards Panel, Supercars Stewards Panel, Judicial Advisory Committee, and as a Member of the Australian Rally Championship Stewards Panel. In 2018 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his services to motor sport.



EMANUELE PIRRO

FORMER FORMULA ONE DRIVER AND FIVE-TIMES LE MANS WINNER, MEMBER OF THE FIA DRIVERS' COMMISSION

During a motor sport career spanning almost 40 years, Emanuele Pirro has achieved a huge amount of success, most notably in sportscar racing, with five Le Mans wins, victory at the Daytona 24 Hours and two wins at the Sebring 12 Hours. In addition, the Italian driver has won the German and Italian Touring Car championships (the latter twice) and has twice been American Le Mans Series Champion. Pirro, enjoyed a three-season F1 career from 1989 to 1991, firstly with Benetton and then for Scuderia Italia. His debut as an FIA Steward came at the 2010 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix and he has returned regularly since.



NATIONAL STEWARD

YVES BACQUELAINE

MEMBER OF FIA TOURING CAR AND HISTORIC CAR COMMISSIONS, PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL WEC STEWARD

A qualified lawyer, Yves Bacquelaine joined the RACB (Royal Automobile Club of Belgium) Stewards' Commission in 1983, he became a board member in 1988, and President of RACB Sport Federation in 2002. He's a member of the FIA Touring Car Commission, the FIA Historic Car Commission, the FIA Rally Commission and a deputy member of the World Motor Sport Committee. He is President of the Belgian Stewards' Commission, and is an International Steward in ETCR, WTCR and TCR Europe, a Permanent International Steward for WEC and ELMS, an International Steward and FIA Observer in Historic Rally and International Steward in F1, F2 and F3.



2019 FIA Formula One World Championship

DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

	AUSTRALIA	BAHRAIN	CHINA	AZERBAIJAN	SPAIN	MONACO	CANADA	FRANCE	AUSTRIA	GB	GERMANY	HUNGARY	BELGIUM	ITALY	SINGAPORE	RUSSIA	JAPAN	MEXICO	USA	BRAZIL	ABU DHABI	POINTS
1	L. HAMILTON	18 ₂	25 ₁	25 ₁	18 ₂	26 _{F 1}	25 ₁	25 ₁	25 ₁	10 ₅	26 _{F 1}	2 ₉	25 ₁									250
2	V. BOTTAS	26 _{F 1}	18 ₂	18 ₂	25 ₁	18 ₂	15 ₃	13 _{F 4}	18 ₂	15 ₃	18 ₂	4 _{NC}										188
3	M. VERSTAPPEN	15 ₃	12 ₄	12 ₄	12 ₄	15 ₃	12 ₄	10 ₅	12 ₄	25 _{F 1}	10 ₅	26 _{F 1}	19 _{F 2}									181
4	S. VETTEL	12 ₄	10 ₅	15 ₃	15 ₃	12 ₄	18 ₂	18 ₂	11 _{F 5}	12 ₄	18 ₁₆	15 ₂										156
5	C. LECLERC	10 ₅	16 _{F 3}	10 ₅	11 _{F 5}	10 ₅	NC	15 ₃	15 ₃	18 ₂	15 ₃	12 _{NC}										132
6	P. GASLY		4 ₈	9 _{F 6}	NC	8 ₆	11 _{F 5}	4 ₈	1 ₁₀	6 ₇	12 ₄	8 _{NC}										63
7	C. SAINZ				6 ₇	4 ₈	8 ₆		8 ₁₁	4 ₆	8 ₈	10 ₅	10 ₅									58
8	K. RÄIKKÖNEN	4 ₈	6 ₇	2 ₉	1 ₁₀				6 ₁₄	2 ₁₇	4 ₁₅	6 ₇										31
9	D. KVYAT	1 ₁₀				2 ₉	6 ₇	1 ₁₀			2 ₁₄	15 ₁₇										27
10	L. NORRIS		8 ₆		4 ₈				2 ₉	8 ₆		2 ₁₁										24
11	D. RICCIARDO			6 ₇			2 ₉	8 ₆			6 ₁₁											22
12	L. STROLL	2 ₉			2 ₉			2 ₉				12 ₄										18
13	K. MAGNUSSEN	8 ₆				6 ₇						4 ₈										18
14	N. HÜLKENBERG	6 ₇						6 ₇	4 ₈		1 ₁₀											17
15	A. ALBON		2 ₉	1 ₁₀			4 ₁₁					8 ₆	1 ₁₀									16
16	S. PÉREZ		1 ₁₀	4 ₈	8 ₆																	13
17	R. GROSJEAN					1 ₁₀	1 ₁₀					6 ₇										8
18	A. GIOVINAZZI									1 ₁₀												1
19	R. KUBICA											1 ₁₀										1
20	G. RUSSELL																					0

F = POINT FOR FASTEST LAP

FORMULA ONE TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Press conference 1500

FRIDAY

Practice session 1 1100 - 1230

Press conference 1300

Practice session 2 1500 - 1630

SATURDAY

Practice session 3 1200 - 1300

Qualifying 1500 - 1600

Followed by track interviews, press conference and parc ferme interviews

SUNDAY

Drivers' Parade 1330

Race 1510

Followed by parc fermé interviews and press conference

ADDITIONAL MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

QUALIFYING

All drivers eliminated in Q1 or Q2 will be available for media interviews immediately after the end of each session, as will drivers who participated in Q3, but who are not required for the post-qualifying press conference. The TV Pen is located at the bottom of the stairs in front of the media centre.

RACE

Any driver retiring before the end of the race will be made available at the TV pen interview area. In addition, during the race every team will make available at least one senior spokesperson for interview by officially accredited TV crews. A list of those nominated will be made available in the media centre.

Following the end of the race, drivers who do not have sessions for print media organised by their team will be available for interview in the Mixed Zone immediately after they have completed their TV interview obligations. A list of these drivers will be distributed to all media at the event during the race.

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