

2018 Australian Grand Prix



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The 2018 Australian Grand Prix (formally known as the Formula 1 2018 Rolex **Australian Grand Prix**)[1] was a Formula One motor race held between 23 and 25 March 2018 in Melbourne, Victoria. The race was contested over fifty-eight laps of the Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit and was the first round of the 2018 FIA Formula One World Championship. [2] The race marked the eighty-second race in the combined history of the Australian Grand Prix —which dates back to the 100 Miles Road Race of 1928—and the twenty-third time the event was held at the Albert Park circuit.

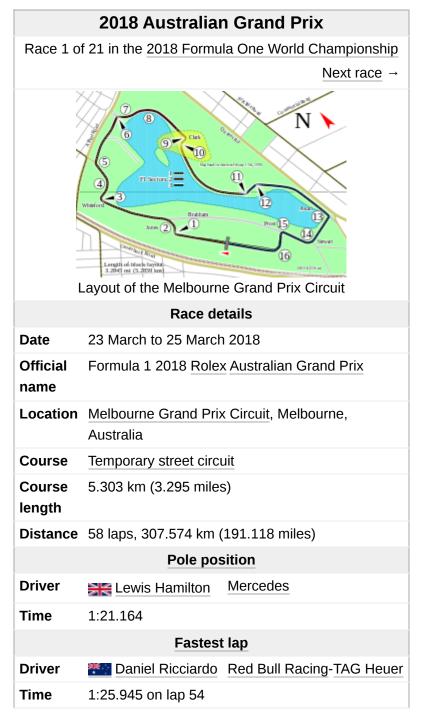
Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel was the defending race winner. [3] Lewis Hamilton started the race from pole—his seventh pole position in Australia, [4] a record for the event while Vettel successfully defended his race win, the forty-eighth of his career. [3]

Report

Background

The race marked the competitive début of the "halo" cockpit protection device after eighteen months of rigorous testing. [5]

Tyres



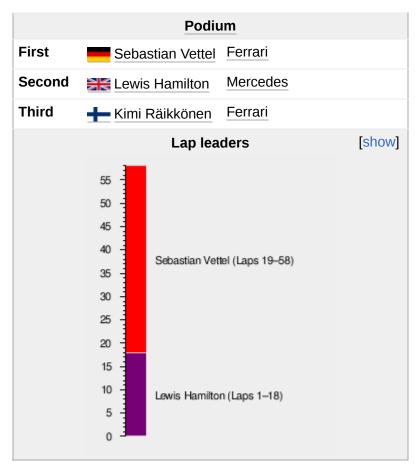
Tyre supplier <u>Pirelli</u> provided teams with the soft, supersoft and ultrasoft compounds. [6]

Drag reduction system

In the week before the Grand Prix, race officials confirmed the inclusion of a third <u>drag reduction</u> <u>system</u> (DRS) zone. The detection point for the third zone was positioned on the approach to the Turn 11-12 chicane with the activation point on the exit to Turn 12. The existing DRS zones were unchanged from previous years, with one positioned on the main straight and the second on the straight between Turns 2 and 3. [8]

Qualifying

In his first run in the third part of qualifying Valtteri Bottas crashed and damaged his gearbox. As a result he received a five place grid penalty and started fifteenth. Lewis Hamilton qualified on pole, Kimi Räikkönen qualified



second, Sebastian Vettel qualified third. Ricciardo qualified fourth but started seventh. Verstappen, Magnussen, Grosjean started fourth, fifth and sixth. Hülkenberg started eight, while Sainz and Alonso started ninth and tenth.

Race

After the start the top three stayed in the same order they started while Verstappen lost a place to Magnussen at the start. Sergey Sirotkin was the first retirement of the race when on lap 4 he retired due to a brake failure caused by overheating. On lap 9, Verstappen spun at turn one while chasing Magnussen and dropped down to eighth. Hamilton led Räikkönen, Vettel, Magnussen, Grosjean, Ricciardo, Hülkenberg, Verstappen, Sainz and Alonso. They stayed in that order until the first round of pit stops. On lap 18 Räikkönen pitted for softs. On lap 19 Hamilton pitted for softs to cover Räikkönen and emerged on track ahead of him. Verstappen pitted on lap 20. Magnussen pitted at the end of lap 21, but retired the next lap due to the cross-threaded wheel-nut being fitted loosely. On lap 24, Grosjean retired at turn 2 from seventh after pitting with the same problem as his team mate Magnussen resulting in a Virtual Safety Car (VSC) being called out. On lap 26 Vettel pitted under the VSC and emerged ahead of Hamilton and Räikkönen. Mercedes miscalculated the required gap between Vettel and Hamilton to prevent a jump under the safety car before Vettel's pit stop due to a software glitch. After the first round of pit stops Vettel led with Hamilton second and Räikkönen in third. Alonso pitted under the VSC to emerge ahead of Verstappen. On lap 27 the full-course Safety Car was called out. The safety car came in at the end of lap 31. This left the top ten Vettel, Hamilton, Räikkönen, Ricciardo, Alonso, Verstappen, Hülkenberg, Bottas, Vandoorne and Sainz. None of the top ten pitted again. Ricciardo hounded Räikkönen for the rest of the race, setting the fastest lap in the process. Alonso resisted the pressure from Verstappen while holding on to fifth place. Vettel took the chequered fag to win the Australian Grand Prix for the second consecutive year, followed

by Hamilton and Räikkönen rounding the podium. Ricciardo, Alonso, Verstappen, Hülkenberg, Bottas, Vandoorne and Sainz in that order completed the top ten, with Renault scoring their first double-points-finish since the 2011 Turkish Grand Prix.

Classification

Qualifying

Pos.	Car no.	Driver Cons	Constructor	Qı	alifying tim	Final	
			Constructor	Q1	Q2	Q3	grid
1	44	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	1:22.824	1:22.051	1:21.164	1
2	7	← Kimi Räikkönen	Ferrari	1:23.096	1:22.507	1:21.828	2
3	5	Sebastian Vettel	Ferrari	1:23.348	1:21.944	1:21.838	3
4	33	Max Verstappen	Red Bull Racing-TAG Heuer	1:23.483	1:22.416	1:21.879	4
5	3	Maniel Ricciardo	Red Bull Racing-TAG Heuer	1:23.494	1:22.897	1:22.152	8 <u>1</u>
6	20	Kevin Magnussen	Haas-Ferrari	1:23.909	1:23.300	1:23.187	5
7	8	Romain Grosjean	Haas-Ferrari	1:23.671	1:23.468	1:23.339	6
8	27	Nico Hülkenberg	Renault	1:23.782	1:23.544	1:23.532	7
9	55	Carlos Sainz Jr.	Renault	1:23.529	1:23.061	1:23.577	9
10	77	→ Valtteri Bottas	Mercedes	1:23.686	1:22.089	no time	15 <u>2</u>
11	14	Fernando Alonso	McLaren-Renault	1:23.597	1:23.692		10
12	2	Stoffel Vandoorne	McLaren-Renault	1:24.073	1:23.853		11
13	11	Sergio Pérez	Force India-Mercedes	1:24.344	1:24.005		12
14	18	Lance Stroll	Williams-Mercedes	1:24.464	1:24.230		13
15	31	Esteban Ocon	Force India-Mercedes	1:24.503	1:24.786		14
16	28	Brendon Hartley	Scuderia Toro Rosso-Honda	1:24.532			16
17	9	Marcus Ericsson	Sauber-Ferrari	1:24.556			17
18	16	Charles Leclerc	Sauber-Ferrari	1:24.636			18
19	35	Sergey Sirotkin	Williams-Mercedes	1:24.922			19
20	10	Pierre Gasly	Scuderia Toro Rosso-Honda	1:25.295			20
107% time: 1:28.621							
Source: ^[4]							

Notes

■ <u>^1</u> – <u>Daniel Ricciardo</u> received a three-place grid penalty for failing to adequately slow down for a red flag during free practice. [9]

■ <u>^2</u> – <u>Valtteri Bottas</u> received a five-place grid penalty for a gearbox change.

Race

Pos.	No.	Driver	Constructor	Laps	Time/Retired	Grid	Points
1	5	Sebastian Vettel	Ferrari	58	1:29:33.283	3	25
2	44	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	58	+5.036	1	18
3	7	+ Kimi Räikkönen	Ferrari	58	+6.309	2	15
4	3	Example 1 Daniel Ricciardo	Red Bull Racing-TAG Heuer	58	+7.069	8	12
5	14	Fernando Alonso	McLaren-Renault	58	+27.886	10	10
6	33	Max Verstappen	Red Bull Racing-TAG Heuer	58	+28.945	4	8
7	27	Nico Hülkenberg	Renault	58	+32.671	7	6
8	77	→ Valtteri Bottas	Mercedes	58	+34.339	15	4
9	2	Stoffel Vandoorne	McLaren-Renault	58	+34.921	11	2
10	55	Carlos Sainz Jr.	Renault	58	+45.722	9	1
11	11	Sergio Pérez	Force India-Mercedes	58	+46.817	12	
12	31	Esteban Ocon	Force India-Mercedes	58	+1:00.278	14	
13	16	Charles Leclerc	Sauber-Ferrari	58	+1:15.759	18	
14	18	■◆■ Lance Stroll	Williams-Mercedes	58	+1:18.288	13	
15	28	Brendon Hartley	Scuderia Toro Rosso-Honda	57	+1 lap	16	
Ret	8	Romain Grosjean	Haas-Ferrari	24	Wheel	6	
Ret	20	Kevin Magnussen	Haas-Ferrari	22	Wheel	5	
Ret	10	Pierre Gasly	Scuderia Toro Rosso-Honda	13	Engine	20	
Ret	9	Marcus Ericsson	Sauber-Ferrari	5	Hydraulics	17	
Ret	35	Sergey Sirotkin	Williams-Mercedes	4	Brakes	19	
Source: ^[10]							

Championship standings after the race

Drivers' Championship standings

Pos.	Driver	Points
1	Sebastian Vettel	25
2	Lewis Hamilton	18
3	← Kimi Räikkönen	15
4	Maniel Ricciardo	12
5	Fernando Alonso	10

Constructors' Championship standings

Pos.	Constructor	Points
1	Ferrari	40
2	Mercedes	22
3	Red Bull Racing-TAG Heuer	20
4	McLaren-Renault	12
5	Renault	7

Note: Only the top five positions are included for both sets of standings.

See also

2018 Melbourne 400

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External links

Official website (http://www.grandprix.com.au/index.php)

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