



# 2018 Australian Grand Prix

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The **2018 Australian Grand Prix** (formally known as the **Formula 1 2018 Rolex Australian Grand Prix**)<sup>[1]</sup> 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](#).<sup>[2]</sup> 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.<sup>[3]</sup> [Lewis Hamilton](#) started the race from pole—his seventh pole position in Australia,<sup>[4]</sup> a record for the event—while Vettel successfully defended his race win, the forty-eighth of his career.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Report

### Background

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

### Tyres

### 2018 Australian Grand Prix

Race 1 of 21 in the [2018 Formula One World Championship](#)

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Layout of the Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit

#### Race details

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Date</b>          | 23 March to 25 March 2018   |
| <b>Official name</b> | Formula 1 2018 <a href="#">Rolex Australian Grand Prix</a>          |
| <b>Location</b>      | <a href="#">Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit</a> , Melbourne, Australia |
| <b>Course</b>        | <a href="#">Temporary street circuit</a>                            |
| <b>Course length</b> | 5.303 km (3.295 miles)  |
| <b>Distance</b>      | 58 laps, 307.574 km (191.118 miles)                                 |

#### Pole position

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Driver</b> | <span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Lewis Hamilton</a> <a href="#">Mercedes</a> |
| <b>Time</b>   | 1:21.164   |

#### Fastest lap

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Driver</b> | <span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Daniel Ricciardo</a> <a href="#">Red Bull Racing-TAG Heuer</a> |
| <b>Time</b>   | 1:25.945 on lap 54  |

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

**Drag reduction system**

In the week before the Grand Prix, race officials confirmed the inclusion of a third drag reduction system (DRS) zone.<sup>[7]</sup> 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.<sup>[8]</sup>

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

### Notes

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

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

## Race

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






Source:<sup>[10]</sup>

## Championship standings after the race

## Drivers' Championship standings

| Pos. | Driver   | Points |
|------|--|--------|
| 1    |  Sebastian Vettel | 25     |
| 2    |  Lewis Hamilton   | 18     |
| 3    |  Kimi Räikkönen   | 15     |
| 4    |  Daniel 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

## References

1. "Australia" (<https://www.formula1.com/en/championship/races/2018/Australia.html>). *Formula1.com*. Formula One World Championship Limited. Retrieved 8 March 2018.
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9. Howard, Tom (23 March 2018). "Stewards issue grid penalty to Ricciardo" (<https://www.speedcafe.com/2018/03/23/stewards-issue-grid-penalty-ricciardo2/>). *Speedcafe*. Retrieved 24 March 2018.
10. "Formula 1 2018 Rolex Australian Grand Prix – Race Result" (<https://www.formula1.com/en/results.html/2018/races/979/australia/race-result.html>). *Formula1.com*. Formula One World Championship Limited. 25 March 2018. Retrieved 25 March 2018.

## External links

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- [Official website \(http://www.grandprix.com.au/index.php\)](http://www.grandprix.com.au/index.php)
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